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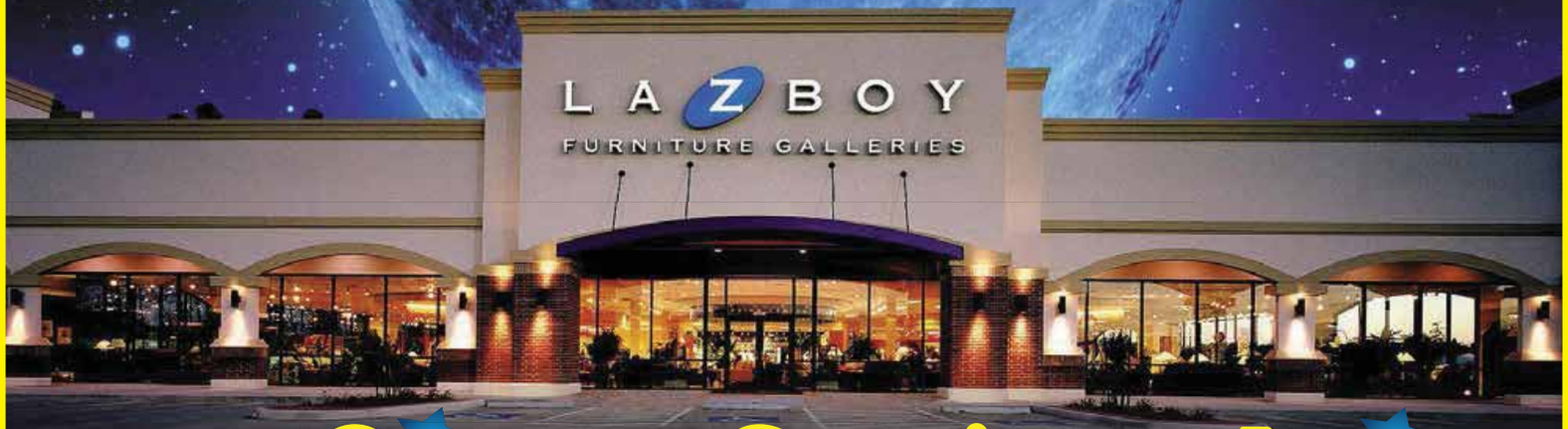

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The Breakfast Club turns 30. Pages 38-39

AHS recoups little of $850K

Phone bills. Watchdog questions why workers aren't being forced to pay back hefty overages

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Alberta Health Services has recouped a mere fraction of $850,000 in controversial cellphone overages and the health body is dialing down expectations that staff will be on the hook to repay more.

In mid-February, the governing health body came under fire after a Wildrose freedom of information request revealed the hefty phone charges. At the time, president and CEO Vickie Kaminski said those with "significant" bills would be contacted to review the circumstances surrounding the overages and said, "AHS will take the most appropriate action it can, including having employees pay back the money."

One staffer did voluntarily pay back $1,300 to the health body, but when asked last week if more money would be recalled, spokesman Bruce Conway said in a statement, "Many of these overages were incurred in the course of AHS business and/or patient care and some resulted even when employees requested roaming packages be added to their lines for travel.

"Given this, and in fairness to our staff, we cannot pursue the total recovery of the overages," Conway said.

The amount paid back by the single staffer amounts to 0.15 per cent of the total bill.

Scott Hennig with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation said "regular companies" have policies around cellphone use in place and would require staff who violated the rules to pay back the overages.

"It wouldn't be a request, it would be 'either you cut us a cheque or we're taking it off your paycheque or we'll work out some sort of payment plan,'" he said.

Hennig said he struggles to understand why AHS is unable to track employee expenses on an individual basis.

"It shouldn't be left up to individual people's conscience, it should be handled by management," he said.

BELLWETHER BIDS FOR STAMPEDE

Bid catcher Dean Edge hollers at a bidder in the crowd at the Boyce Theatre in Stampede Park on Thursday evening, during the 2015 Calgary Stampede Canvas Auction. The annual event sees millions of dollars spent on sponsorships of chuckwagon drivers who will compete in the upcoming Calgary Stampede. It's also seen as a bellwether for the Calgary economy. How much money was doled out this year? Turn to page 8 to find out. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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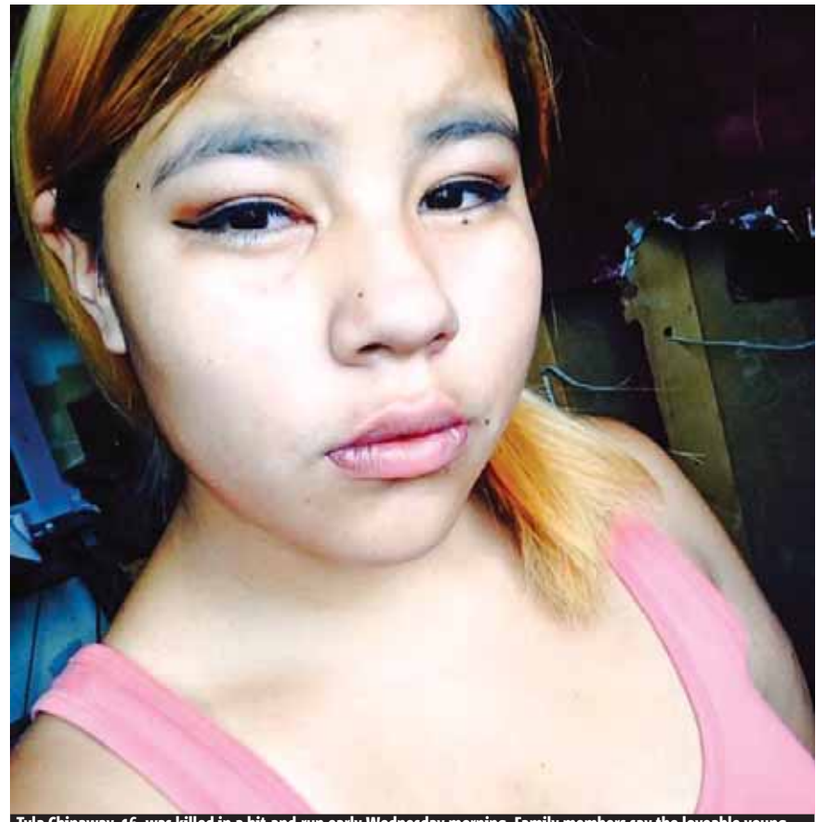
‘In her short life, she’s been through so much’

Fatal hit-and-run. Dash-cam footage, CCTV helped police investigate, lay charges

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

Toxicology report

- Police are waiting on a toxicology report from the Medical Examiner’s Office.
- Calgary police say the driver made no attempt to check on the victim’s well-being after the collision.



Tyla Chipaway, 16, was killed in a hit-and-run early Wednesday morning. Family members say the loveable young woman had several challenges during her short life. FACEBOOK

With aspirations to become a doctor so she could help others, the 16-year-old girl killed in a hit-and-run was a loveable and caring person, family members say.

Tyla Chipaway was struck and killed by a taxi travelling westbound on 16th Avenue N.E. early Wednesday morning. Police have already arrested and charged the 70-year-old driver.

“There’s a lot of angry people,” aunt Doreen Delorme told Metro.

“There’s a lot of shock and ... we’re just going on automatic pilot. We just want people to know that she was a very wonderful girl who was very helpful.

“In her short life, she’s been through so much.”

Born into an “unstable home” where addiction issues were present, the 16-year-old saw both of her grandparents killed in a car crash when she was a child and also had to deal with her father’s suicide.

Police say CCTV footage shows Tyla was lying in the road on 16th Avenue N.E. and was alive before the collision.

Delorme explained that Tyla moved around a lot during her youth and they want the public to know “she wasn’t just a forgotten child.”

While there have been reports that Tyla was living on the streets of Calgary at the time of her death, her aunt said that news came as a shock to her and her family.

“We just want people to know that she was a very considerate, caring young woman who was always thinking about others,” she said.

An Ojibwa youth, Tyla was also engaged in First Nations cultural activities in Alberta and Saskatchewan, attending a number of round-dance and sun-dance ceremonies.

Family members took to social media on Thursday to express their grief, with many saying the young woman will never be forgotten, that despite “pain within” she “always managed to smile.”

Using dash-cam footage and GPS data collected by the cab company, alongside evidence on scene, police were able to arrest and charge Stanislaw Maguder with hit-and-run causing death.

Acting Insp. Paul Stacey, with the CPS traffic section, said the evidence “convinced us that the cab driver absolutely knew that he had hit somebody.”

“Generally speaking, we’d never advocate leaving the scene,” he said.

“It is a driver’s responsibility to always render assistance when they feel that they’ve hit something.”

While no evidence suggests that alcohol was a factor in the incident, Stacey said there are still unanswered questions.

“Why she was lying in the road? That’s something I don’t have an answer to,” he said, noting police could have been “dealing with a whole different set of circumstances” if the driver had stopped.

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Spousal sponsorship delays have Calgary families feeling trapped

Dalila Zambrano, her husband Don and their 18-month-old daughter Juliette have spent the last few years in limbo while Zambrano waits for approval to become a permanent resident of Canada. Unable to work, attend school or even leave the country, Zambrano's only option has been to wait. ANNA BROOKS/FOR METRO

Bureaucracy. One woman decries inefficiencies with Citizenship and Immigration Canada

ANNA BROOKS
calgary@metronews.ca

Freedom and family are things Dalila Zambrano has sacrificed on her journey to become a permanent resident of Canada.

Without residency approval, she couldn't work or go to school — all she could do was wait. Zambrano said she's spent the last two years home alone looking after her 18-month-old daughter, Juliette, while her husband works.

"I felt like I was in jail," Zambrano said. "I didn't have a permit to study and improve my English, and that makes it very hard to have friends here. It was just me with my daughter alone every day."

Zambrano applied for permanent residency in 2013, and hoped it would only be six months before she could start studying English. That didn't happen.

She said her struggle is a result of serious inefficiencies with Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) handling of residency applications. Despite CIC's new Express Entry option, which states application processes will be completed in six months or less, those who applied before Jan. 1, 2015, are still stuck waiting upwards of 14 months.

Zambrano said the worst part of the wait was being unable to leave. Even when her mother in Mexico fell ill, she said she couldn't risk leaving for fear of being denied re-entry into Canada.

Her husband Don said after 580 days, his family was approved for Stage 1 of the application process, and Zambrano was finally able to visit her family in Mexico. "I feel like I'm being punished for falling in love with someone who isn't Canadian," Don said.

Valerie Wiebe Miguel, a Canadian citizen, said she faced similar struggles when her husband Lukengo applied for permanent residence last year. It's been 370 days, and the Miguel family hasn't even made it to Stage 1 of the process. "It's inhumane. We are Canadian families," Miguel said. "My family is really struggling."

Demonstration

To spread awareness about the issue, Calgary families of the Canada Inland Spousal Sponsorship Petitioners group are gathering for a street demonstration March 21 at 1 p.m. at Calgary City Hall.

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Students like Syameena Pillai, a Grade 11 student at Centennial High School, have said large class sizes this year are preventing students from getting the one-on-one teaching support they need. METRO FILE

Class sizes in Alberta seeing 'upward trend'

Education. Calgary public board trustee feels teachers may not be able to give kids the attention they need

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Student Bobby Knight says the more bodies in his band class, the better.

In biology, not so much.

Knight is in Grade 11 at Calgary's Crescent Heights School, where indications from students like him are that 10 teaching positions were lost after the 2013-14 year, and the fallout led to more students being crammed into fewer class periods.

Knight has 50 fellow students in band — he says the array of instruments they play makes the music sound "awesome" — but in classes like biology, where he learns alongside 37 others, there are logistical struggles.

"I don't have a lot of time at home to do homework and to study to teach myself from the textbook, which is something that students so often have to do," Knight said Thursday.

Data for every school board in the province released first to Metro indicates that class sizes have trended up only slightly year-over-year. The averages are also coming in below recommendations from the Alberta Commission on Learning in every category except kindergarten to Grade 3, where there is an average of 20.2 students and the recommendation is 17.

But it's the metro public school boards where class sizes appear to exceed the averages by the largest margins. The average Calgary Board of Education high school class, for example, has 29.9 students in it compared to a commission recommendation of 27.

Education advocates and watchers are also waiting anxiously for the March 26 provincial budget, where many expect allocated funding to come in below necessary levels to keep up with continuous student growth.

Trina Hurdman, a board trustee, said she's concerned about an "upward trend" in class sizes "with no sign of going down." The public board has seen its per-student funding decline in each of the past four years.

"We know that teachers are already complaining about workload … I'm very concerned that with this trend continuing we'll see more kids falling through the cracks and the quality of education going down across the province," Hurdman said.

MRU faculty calls school's move to sessional instructors 'morally wrong'

Faculty representatives at a cash-strapped city university are raising concerns that a plan to offer retirement incentives to senior instructors will erode a commitment to education.

On Wednesday, Mount Royal University's board of governors approved allowances equivalent to 75 per cent of a member's annual pay for faculty willing to retire.

Marc Schroeder, president of the Mount Royal faculty association, said far more will be lost than just a figure at the head of the class. He said departing tenured faculty generally are replaced with sessional instructors.

"It's about an overall trend of the casualization of the academic workforce … I would say it's morally wrong," he said.

Schroeder said sessional pay is far lower than that earned by full-time faculty. There's no compensation for research and there are fewer opportunities for professional development.

Kathryn Shailer, the school's provost and academic vice-president, said in a statement the retirement package was a "key component" of a faculty renewal on campus, as well as part of a larger strategy to deal with what's expected to be a difficult provincial budget March 26.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Family of woman killed by whale requests privacy

Jennifer Karren.
Funeral services are scheduled for Friday; the family has asked only for relatives and close friends to attend

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

The family of a Calgary woman who was killed in a freak and tragic tourist accident has asked for privacy at a funeral and event celebrating her life Friday.

Jennifer Karren, a 35-year-old Calgary resident, was killed on March 11 when a grey whale surfaced in front of the tour boat she was travelling in, causing the driver to make a "sudden manoeuvre."

Information from Cabo Adventures, the company behind the "Snorkel & Sea Adventure" tour Karren was on, indicates the whale hit the side of the boat, throwing her from the craft off the coast of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

On Thursday, a family member said Karren was a "private person" and as a result is asking only family, close friends and people who knew her attend the event.

"This is a gal' who would not have sought fame and it is out of the dignity of that and respect for her own privacy that we would prefer that she not be put on display to a bunch of strangers," the family member said.

"She was a private person and we want to respect that."

In an obituary published online, Karren was described as a "very loving person who wanted to live life to the fullest" and was someone who "loved nature and all of earth's wondrous animals."

Jennifer Karren and husband Trevor can be seen in this photo taken from her Facebook page. Family members of the 35-year-old woman killed in a tragic tour accident are asking for privacy at upcoming events celebrating her life.
FACEBOOK

"The day she married her husband Trevor was the best day of her life," it continued.

"Together they conquered the world through their travels, and building their life in their home here in Calgary."

The obituary said Karren was an avid athlete who enjoyed camping, biking and gardening; making a "huge impact" in the world and on anyone she met.

A tour boat guide and another passenger on board jumped into the water after Karren, returning her to the boat, where a third passenger performed CPR.

A naval rescue team arrived on scene and took Karren on board where they continued first aid and medical care, she was then taken to the One World Hospital by St. Luke's, where she would later pass away.

Karren was an employee with construction consulting firm, WorleyParsons for six years. A statement from the company said Karren "always spoke kindly of everyone with whom she came in contact."

Dog attack.
Alta. woman awaits her sentencing

A central Alberta woman who ordered her pitbulls to attack her friend will soon learn what sentence the court will hand her.

Rita Phillip of Sundre was found guilty last June of aggravated assault and criminal negligence causing bodily harm.

Deanna Wolfe was found lying in a pool of blood and unconscious in Phillip's trailer in August 2012 and emergency responders thought she was dead.

Phillip apologized to Wolfe during sentencing submissions today in a Calgary court.

The Crown has asked for seven years in jail for Phillip, while the defence wants probation and time served, as well as a ban on owning dogs.

Sentencing will resume on Friday.

Wolfe said outside court she did not accept Phillip's apology. The attack came when she and Phillip were arguing.

She said she's had 14 surgeries and still has to undergo nine more. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arts, economic development finding common ground

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Growing the arts in Calgary is increasingly being seen as a way of growing the economy, say leaders of two development agencies with once disparate mandates that are starting to increasingly overlap.

Later this month, Calgary Arts Development CEO Patti Pon said her organization plans to release an update to the strategic plan it first brought to council one year ago, outlining in business-like terms the way it aims to go about fostering and promoting the city's cultural scene.

Last November, meanwhile, Calgary Economic Development brought its own strategic plan to council, marking the document's first update since 2008 and the first time the city's arts authority was included as one of the "lead organizations" responsible for achieving the outlined goals.

Quoted

"People involved in the arts are entrepreneurs. So it's supportive of economic development itself."
Steve Allan, chairman of Calgary Economic Development

Steve Allan, chairman of Calgary Economic Development's board of directors, said the updated plan took a more "holistic" and "much broader" view of how to grow the city's economy, specifically when it comes to entrepreneurship.

"People involved in the arts are entrepreneurs," Allan said. "So it's supportive of economic development, in itself."

The plan also outlines the arts' role in recruiting and retaining top talent in Calgary.

"If you're looking to attract the best and brightest from around the world, they want that diversity, they want that richness of experience that they can have in a city," Allan said.

Pon said the updated arts plan will include revisions to the "tactical plans" of various arts organizations and related groups in the city.

Then, in the fall, the arts authority also plans to publish a data-heavy document with updated statistics to compare to the "Success Indicator Baseline Report" it released last November.

The new document will compare the previous baseline measures with updated data on things like the distribution of arts spaces across the city, the reach of Calgary's arts scene in local and social media, and the financial health of the arts sector.

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Chuckwagon driver Kurt Bensmiller, who took home a $170,000 sponsorship, salutes the crowd at the 2015 Calgary Stampede Canvas Auction on Thursday. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Stampede auction haul down 21%

Advertising. Annual sales of chuckwagon sponsorships seen as an economic indicator

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Sponsors offered up a total of $2.782 million to chuckwagon drivers Thursday during the 2015 Calgary Stampede Canvas Auction, down more than $750,000 from last year's haul.

The annual auction, attended by many of the city's top corporate executives looking to purchase the right to put their company logos on the tarps that cover the chuckwagons of the sport's top drivers, is often seen as an indicator of how well the Calgary economy is doing.

"There's lots of reasons why companies are here to buy a chuckwagon canvas," said Stampede president and chairman Bill Gray.

"For some it's the advertising. For others it's the great hosting and entertaining opportunities, both at the races and afterwards at the barns. And, for others, it's a way to give back to the community."

The highest bid in this year's auction came from the Tsuu T'ina Nation, who paid $170,000 to sponsor Kurt Bensmiller, the chuckwagon champion from last year's Stampede.

That was up from the $140,000 Bensmiller pulled in at the 2014 auction, but most other drivers saw their bid prices decline this year.

Master of ceremonies Jack MacDonald said the auction also marks the unofficial countdown to 2015 Calgary Stampede, and the "heart-pounding, teeth-rattling, earth-shaking thunder" of the chuckwagon races.

"Tonight is precursor to that excitement," MacDonald said. "The deals made and canvases bought will stoke that fire."

The Calgary Stampede runs July 3 to 12.

NDP want police to probe bribery allegations in PC nomination

NDP MLA Brian Mason is asking the Edmonton Police to investigate the allegations of bribery in a Progressive Conservative nomination race for south Edmonton.

The PC party is currently investigating the nomination contest in Edmonton — Ellerslie where allegations of bribery have surfaced against MLA Naresh Bhardwaj.

He has denied all of the allegations and launched a defamation suit against the man who made them to the media and in a sworn statement.

Mason said the allegations are serious, which is why he wrote a letter to Edmonton police chief Rod Knecht asking for the investigation.

NDP MLA Brian Mason RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

"We have given the government every chance to do the right thing, to do their job and they failed to do it, because clearly they don't want a police investigation," said Mason.

He said the PC party should not be investigating the matter itself.

Anna Batchelor, a spokeswoman for Edmonton Police, confirmed they had received the letter and said it would be dealt with appropriately.

"The request has been assigned within the EPS and this will determine if an investigation will go forward," she said.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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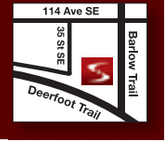

Labour. Province to drop illegal strike legislation

Alberta is backing away from legislation that set out automatic suspensions and steep fines for public-sector unions involved in illegal strikes.

Premier Jim Prentice told labour leaders in a meeting that the government will repeal the bill that was passed more than a year ago but never put into force.

Labour groups said the bill, which was in response to an illegal walkout of prison guards at Edmonton Institution in April 2013, violated charter freedoms.

The legislation would have affected more than 100,000 workers in several unions, including the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees and the United Nurses of Alberta.

Prentice had already indicated his government would have to review the province's labour laws after the Supreme Court ruled a Saskatchewan law that prevented public-sector employees from striking was unconstitutional.

The premier has made unionized government employees a potential target of government cost-cutting in light of low oil prices, saying their high wages are unsustainable. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politics

Premier's support begins to slide

Premier Jim Prentice's job approval rating has dipped, according to the findings of a poll published Thursday.

The Angus Reid Institute survey found 43 per cent of respondents support the job the Tory leader is doing, down seven points from December. Despite that, Prentice remains the second-most popular premier in Canada, trailing only Saskatchewan's Brad Wall.

Next week will be an important one for Prentice, as his government introduces a budget that will try to overcome a potential $7-billion shortfall.

Angus Reid analyzed the online survey results of 6,278 Canadian adults in a randomized and representative sample between Feb. 26 and March 6. The survey is accurate to plus or minus 1.2 per cent 19 times out of 20. METRO

Crime

Pair with alleged links to cartels re-arrested

Alberta police have re-arrested two members of La Familia, a local "support arm" believed to be connected to Mexican cartels and Central American gangs.

Cody Sterling Tremblett, 28, and Penny Sue Fleming, 34, were re-arrested by Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) in Edmonton, last week.

The pair were first arrested in December along with two other members, and had faced a combined 40 weapons and drug charges.

Peter Alan Griffon, 34, another gang member, is wanted for 13 outstanding warrants and is believed to be in Nova Scotia.

Tremblett and Fleming were arrested after police witnessed a suspected drug deal. METRO

Event helping community grow

Agriculture. Seedy Saturday encourages genetic diversity through seed sharing

HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

Seedy Saturday is about bringing gardeners together and growing a community — especially after a long winter. CONTRIBUTED

Seeds are something money can buy, but for the survival of local plants, folks starting a garden should probably forgo the packaged plants at a local supermarket and instead opt to pitch in to genetic diversity, say Seedy Saturday organizers.

The yearly event is helping gardeners of all ages get in touch with nature, and learn why it's best to trade seeds instead of purchasing them from chains. Seedy Saturday is a family-friendly event about promoting awareness when it comes to preserving genetic diversity through seed saving.

"We want to bring people together and show them that it's important to grow open-pollinated non-genetically modified seeds, and to grow from seed to seed," said Lindsay Meads, who is on the event's organizing committee. "You don't have to be dependent on buying seeds from commercial companies."

She added seeds from companies aren't sustainable. She called them "terminator seeds," meaning once planted their seeds won't grow new plants year after year like locally collected ones.

"They basically make you dependent on buying seeds," she said.

The other downside of purchasing box-store seeds is, with Calgary's unique climate, the mass-produced seeds don't fare well, and won't grow as nicely as local alternatives.

One of the popular fixtures is a seed exchange, where people are encouraged to take their garden's seeds and put them on a table to trade.

"It's about preserving this knowledge of sharing seeds and swapping seeds," Meads said. "More than anything, what Seedy Saturday has grown into is a real community-building event."

The event is in its 10th year, and will be taking place Saturday at the Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community Centre. Admission costs $2.

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Alberta still seeing big population surge

Growth. Birth rate in province healthy despite downturn

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

The flood of people into Alberta has slowed to more of a steady stream, but the province remains a destination of choice for both Canadians and newcomers from abroad, new data suggests. Overall, Alberta's population swelled 2.47 per cent in 2014 to 4,160,044 residents total. That growth was 4.5 times the Canadian average, but was down from a 3.03 per cent growth in 2014.

Alberta did see 5,488 non-permanent residents leave the province in the last quarter of 2014 alone, more than any quarter going back to late 2010. "Some of that is certainly because the economy is slowing," said Gerald Kastendieck, a spokesperson with the provincial treasury board and finance ministry. The province is, however, seeing growth in its share of landed immigrants.

In the last quarter of 2014, 17 per cent of all newcomers to Canada ended up in Alberta, a record percentage share for the province and one that trailed only Ontario.

Stats

Alberta's "natural growth" has stayed healthy: From the first half of fiscal year 2014-15 to December there were 28,408 births and 11,757 deaths.

This graph shows the inter-provincial migration to and from Alberta in the last quarter of 2014. GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Charity. Olympic medalist to take on Kilimanjaro

Calgary's own Olympic silver medalist, Cheryl Bernard, will be climbing to the summit of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro this summer to raise awareness about child labour.

While travelling through Africa, Bernard met a woman who had just visited the little boy she sponsored through World Vision. He saved every letter she ever wrote, and Bernard said she was so moved by the story that she soon began sponsoring Nuru, an eight-year-old girl in Tanzania.

"It's really touching to see how much that money can mean to someone who needs it," she said. "There are so many kids out there who can't speak for themselves — that's our responsibility."

Now, she's looking forward to the chance to meet Nuru in person when she heads to Tanzania in a few months.

From June 16 to 24, Bernard will join Rick Campanelli, J.D. Scott and Corey Vidal for World Vision's Kili Climb 4 Kids, as they climb all 5,895 metres of Africa's highest peak.

The Kili Climb 4 Kids was initiated by World Vision's No Child for Sale campaign, with the goal of raising awareness about child labour and $150,000 to support the Women and Girls in Crisis Fund. According to the International Labour Organization, 168 million children aged five to 17 are working as child labourers throughout the world.

"I chose to act in this way because it's not going to be easy," said Bernard. "It's showing respect for those kids who walk four or five hours a day to get fresh water, or work in horrible conditions."

World Vision is currently $6,300 in to their $150,000 goal. The funds will go toward education, skills training, counselling for women and girls facing exploitation and abuse.

JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

Admirable

"It's really touching to see how much that money can mean to someone who needs it."
Chertll Bernard

Shortly after receiving an Olympic silver medal for curling in 2010, Cheryl Bernard began working with World Vision. She sponsors a child, has run marathons and will soon be climb Kilimanjaro as a part of Kili Climb 4 Kids. JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

ALBERTA THE 51ST STATE: NOT SO YANKEE DOODLE DANDY

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

Quoted

It's true: in some aspects, joining the United States wouldn't seem that foreign to us. For better or worse, for years we've struggled with the nickname Texas North.... But there's so much of the United States that just seems to be "un-Canadian." Our love of fair and balanced journalism essentially shut down the Fox News-esque Sun News Network.

In his new book The Accidental Superpower, geopolitical strategist and forecaster Peter Zeihan suggests something many Albertans have considered at least once in their lifetime: Alberta should leave Canada and join the United States of America.

In the book, Zeihan writes, "Alberta as a U.S. state would not simply be rich — the richest in the union, in fact — but would have a vibrantly well-financed and diverse economy that would put its former (and a lot of its newfound) countrymen to shame."

And sure, being rich sounds great. Especially as Albertans are dealing with yet another recession — sorry, I meant to say downturn. (We're supposed to be saying downturn, right? That's less scary.) And maybe it's because I'm Canadian and this is a very Canadian thing to say, but isn't there more to life than just being rich?

It's true: in some aspects, joining the United States wouldn't seem that foreign to us. For better or worse, for years we've struggled with the nickname Texas North. And thanks to our reliance on American television, growing up, I think I knew more about Detroit than I did about my own country. This explains why I was always terrified to leave my house, even though I see now that I basically lived in 7th Heaven: The Town.

These days, it's way cheaper to fly to the U.S. than it is to fly to our neighbouring provinces. Plus there's no denying our love of American pop culture. This year, twice as many Canadians watched the Grammys than watched last week's Junos. And how many of you that watched February's Oscars also watched the Canadian Screen Awards? Yeah, I thought so.

But there's so much of the United States that just seems to be "un-Canadian." Our love of fair and balanced journalism essentially shut down the Fox News-esque Sun News Network. And despite its growing popularity, Black Friday hasn't really caught on in Canada, at least not in the way it has in the United States (i.e. bludgeoning someone over a discounted DVD player). And that's a good thing. Then there's Target Canada's historic flop north of the 49th parallel.

And on the other side of the coin, Americans haven't really embraced Tim Hortons the way the Canadians have — and if they struggle to accept our national drink of choice, what makes you think they'll accept a whole new state?

In my opinion, no amount of money is worth adapting the Americans' nonsensical gun laws and subsequent struggles with crime.

I know one author's suggestion isn't enough to start an Albertan revolution, but if his idea sounds intriguing to you, remember: while being rich might seem great, we all know that nothing comes for free.

Mike Morrison writes Mike's Bloggity Blog and tweets from @mikesbloggity.

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Reunited, and it feels so good

Right: an image of Titan, bottom, in 2013. Left: today, not much has changed and the kitty has settled back into old habits. CONTRIBUTED

Pets. Missing cat Titan returns to family after almost two years

The cat came back — and after two years, Titan's family is ecstatic with the purrfect ending.

In July 2013, Sheri and Don Hanson's cat went missing. The indoor kitty and his brother managed to hop over the ground-floor balcony rail to freedom.

One came back, but Titan — who was with the family for more than eight years — made a run for it.

Sheri said the search for her furry family member started immediately but had no luck.

That is, until she got an unexpected phone call on Friday the 13th, a lucky conversation on an unlucky day.

"I can't describe the feeling," Hanson said. "I always kept the hope that he would come home."

The kitty had been found and kept by a family in the area. But Hanson said that, because of how particular he was, Titan acted out and was eventually brought to the Meow Foundation.

The rescuers tried to locate the family through the feline's embedded chip, which hadn't been updated after a move.

Meow Foundation intake specialist Amanda Dee routinely browses missing pets on Facebook to locate families for the kitties in her facility. Deciding to search deeper, she looked through the YYC Pet Recovery Facebook page, which chronicles photos of lost pets in online albums.

She went back two years, where she found a match. There was no question that the sassy cat in their care did, in fact, have a home.

"He kind of looked at me and started head-butting my arm and my hands. He remembered me," Hanson said, describing the moment she was reunited with her missing cat. "He's not any different; he's the same cat."

HELEN PIKE/METRO

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Recreation. Cheaper costs and increased acceptance have led to a surge in hobby droning

IRA LAMCJA
ira.lamcja@metronews.ca

Alexander Knight readies his drone by turning a switch on his remote control. The propellers make a loud humming noise as the drone takes off. He flies it higher and higher until it's a small black dot against a blue sky.

"You just need to be able to see it," he says, pointing at the horizon.

Knight, a self-styled citizen journalist, drives around Toronto documenting what he might deem as environmental hazards. He then blogs his experiences at alexanderknight.ca. It's a hobby for him. He makes no income off it.

Today, he's observing the cleanup of what he says is contamination from a rezoned industrial plant — and is happy to find, during the 15-minute flight, that the cleanup is finished.

With drones coming in at cheaper prices, it's now easier than ever to acquire and fly one. On Amazon, a Phantom DJI quadcopter with a GoPro camera costs around $1,000, and the Parrot AR drones start at around $500 and can go up to $900. On the lower end, Hubsan models cost around $100 to $200, though their camera capabilities are more limited.

Drone enthusiast Alexander Knight points to an image on a screen while his drone (not pictured) flies over a field in Toronto. IRA LAMCJA/METRO

The price, along with increasing cultural acceptance, has led to a new pastime of hobby droning. Aerial photography and videography are popular choices, as Twitter and Instagram will attest. #Droneselfies is devoted to aerial images of people taken from up above. Even Martha Stewart is a fan.

The trend has left Transport Canada scrambling to rein in hobbyists who stray too far. The most pressing concern for the agency has been daredevil flyers operating too close to airports, which can interfere with commercial airline planes. Transport Canada's new rules limit this, as hobbyists can no longer fly closer than nine kilometres from any airport, heliport or aerodrome.

Knight says he hasn't had issues with Transport Canada but he worries that may change as regulations try to keep up with the advancing technology.

Patrick Dinnen however has had to rein in his photographic pursuits. The "creative technologist" based in Toronto had been experimenting with lightwriting — the photographing of trails of light through long exposure settings — when he bought a Phantom DJI drone.

One night he and two friends, Brent Marshall and Dré Labre, attached custom LED lights to the drone and flew it over various Toronto parks, turning on the camera and capturing its flight path, exposing trails of ethereal light and colour. They dubbed the paintings Weird Illuminated Sky Paintings (WISPs).

"What we did with WISP is not really open to us anymore," Dinnen says, as Transport Canada no longer allows nighttime flying for hobbyists.

But for some enthusiasts, the appeal is the drone itself, as many have taken to making their own.

Knight orders the parts for his drones online through websites such as eBay. And there are resources among the hobbyist community to help those who need it.

DYIdrones.com, a U.S.-based website devoted to connecting drone fans with peers, functions as a social network for hobbyists and amateur enthusiasts.

The site's goal is to make drone development easier and cheaper for everyone while educating people on the technology. Discussions on the site can feature anything from where to buy certain parts to how to assemble a drone.

The cost of making a drone is usually lower than buying an off-the-shelf product, and assembly doesn't require advanced knowledge of mechanics or robotics.

Some Canadian retailers have popped up and begun offering drone parts for hobbyists. Canada Drones, founded four years ago by Dany Thivierge in Mississauga, Ont., started out with the online community at DIYdrones.com. Thivierge realized there was a real need to supply parts to his "fellow geeks." Today, Thivierge counts almost 4,000 customers.

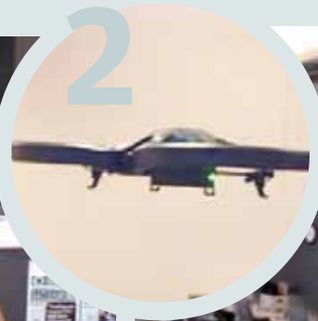
Weird Illuminated Sky Paintings (WISPs) were created with drones and LEDs. CONTRIBUTED

"The growth is what surprised me the most," he says, adding that his sales are well over the million-dollar goal that many businesspeople have when first starting out.

Thivierge is optimistic for future sales in the summer, hinting at some "exciting products" on the way.

"People keep surprising me with never-before-imagined applications for this technology," he says.

In pictures: Metro's Ira Lamcja tests a Parrot drone



1 Remote. Works on most devices

Flying the Parrot AR drone is serious business. I used an iPad most of the time as a remote control but you can also use an iPhone as well as an Android phone or tablet.

2 Camera. Decent, by 2000s standards

The image quality on the camera attached to this drone is surprisingly good. A great deal of detail is captured, and although there is pixelation when the images are enlarged, the photos are still clear, resembling cellphone images from the early 2000s.

3 Handling. Beware of tight spaces

With time, practice and many crash scenes, piloting becomes easier and more instinctive. The Parrot's Styrofoam protection makes it ideal for flying indoors, but beware of flying in small or tight spaces. While the flip function is available, allowing the drone to somersault in the air, I don't recommend it indoors. I tried it once and took out the light in my living room. The Parrot survived.

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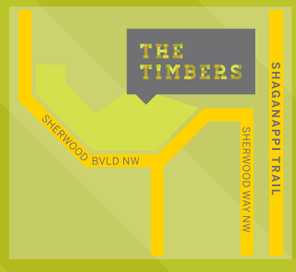

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Newlyweds share their first dance at the ACC

Jennifer Rogers, right, and Scott Protomanni (No. 19) enjoy their first dance after tying the knot at the Toronto Maple Leafs' Blue & White Wedding, the first wedding ever at the Air Canada Centre, in Toronto on Thursday. By way of fan votes and a selection committee, Jennifer and Scott triumphed over hundreds of wedding hopefuls through a contest on MapleLeafs.com. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories seek support for ISIL mission

Politics. Federal Conservatives plan to ask opposition parties to support extension

In a challenge to the opposition, Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson said Thursday the government wants all-party backing of a motion to extend the military mission against extremists in Iraq and Syria.

But the New Democrats and Liberals continued to express wary skepticism about the government's conduct of the deployment, which has seen one special-forces soldier killed in a friendly-fire incident with northern Iraq's Kurdish forces.

Nicholson made the call for unity in a speech to several dozen Ottawa-based foreign diplomats who were invited to Foreign Affairs headquarters. He emphasized the threat that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) directly poses to Canada and its allies.

Quoted

"They have to explain how it is that Canada has ended up on the front lines of this war."

Paul Dewar, NDP foreign affairs critic

The speech was Nicholson's first in his new portfolio and came a day after Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced he will ask Parliament next week to expand the military mission.

Nicholson said he was proud of the decision to extend the mission and "the moral clarity" Harper possesses.

"I can also tell you that he will ask all parties to come together as Canadians," Nicholson said. "He will ask them to support our government's operation to degrade and destabilize this gang of thugs."

NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar said his party wants to support civilians at risk from ISIL's advances but he accused the government of not being transparent about what the military mission entails.

"There is so little definition as to what our role is there, our strategy is," said Dewar. "They have to explain how it is that Canada has ended up on the front lines of this war."

Joyce Murray, the Liberal defence critic, agrees ISIL is a threat to Canada and the world and that the country has a role to play in fighting it.

"We cannot speculate about a motion that has not been presented to Parliament," she said in an email.

"What we do know is that this prime minister has not been open and honest about what our troops are mandated to do in Iraq."

Nicholson said Canada must expand the mission because ISIL poses a continuing threat that will grow if left unchecked. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Brian Sinclair inquiry

Care changes to take time: Review

Many recommendations from an inquest into an aboriginal man's death following a 34-hour wait in a Winnipeg emergency room will take years to implement. That's the conclusion of a team sifting through the 63 suggestions from the Brian Sinclair inquest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Florida

Department of health withdraws order against spa

The Florida Department of Health has withdrawn cease-and-desist orders against the directors of a health spa where two Ontario aboriginal girls received treatment.

The department sent cease-and-desist letters in February to co-directors of the Hippocrates Health Institute, Brian Clement and his wife Anna Maria Clement, saying it had "probable cause" to believe they were practising medicine without a license.

A department spokesman says the orders were withdrawn due to "lack of evidence."

In a statement, Clement says the decision is proof that he and his wife are licensed nutritionists who "have not and do not practice medicine." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kamloops, B.C.

Man's request to reunite with pot plants denied

A provincial court judge has denied a Kamloops, B.C. man's application to be reunited with 10 medicinal pot plants seized by the RCMP last year. The pot plants were discovered during a disturbance complaint. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court rules in favour of Jesuit school

Religion. Institution's rights were infringed upon when province denied an exemption from its secular laws, Supreme Court rules

A divided Supreme Court of Canada disagreed over the subtleties, but in the end upheld the religious freedom of a historic Montreal Jesuit school to teach Catholicism in the way it chooses.

The high court ruled Thursday that Quebec infringed on the religious freedom of Jesuit-run Loyola High School in Montreal by refusing it an exception from teaching the province's ethics and religious culture program.

But the high court was divided by a 4-3 margin on how to resolve the clash between religious freedom and the need to follow the secular law of the province.

A vocal minority, led by Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, said they didn't think the majority struck the right balance between protecting freedom of religion and the need to follow the law.

In the narrowest legal sense, the ruling grants the school's appeal so it can use its own course and teach the province's Ethics and Religious Culture or ERC program from a Catholic perspective.

The school can now reapply to Quebec's education ministry for an exemption to teach the ERC course, and that decision must be guided by Thursday's ruling.

Paul Donovan, Loyola's principal, said the school encourages debate and discussion in its classrooms and has educated many prominent people since its founding in 1848.

"We want them to know what it is they're accepting or rejecting," he said. "To say, I don't want to be a Catholic, that's up to each individual. But you got to know what you're saying no to."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snowfall strands vehicles

A motorist attempts to move his car in Halifax on Wednesday. After receiving about 90 centimetres of snow this week, Halifax Stanfield International Airport says it is providing shovels for those who left their cars in the long-term parking lot because, quite frankly, a lot of them are buried in snow. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obesity rates rise despite laws: Study

Health. L.A. hoped to improve diets by restricting the opening of some restaurants

A much-hailed law that restricted the opening of new standalone fast-food restaurants in one of the poorest sections of Los Angeles did not curb obesity or improve diets, a new study found.

City lawmakers passed the zoning ordinance in 2008 that limited the opening or expansion of fast-food outlets in a 32-square-mile area south of Interstate 10 that struggles with high obesity rates and other health problems.

The law, believed to be the first effort of its kind by a major city to improve public health, did not ban new eateries in strip malls.

The research by the Rand Corp. think-tank found that obesity rates in South Los Angeles continued to rise after passage of the law.

Health experts said a single intervention would not reverse the obesity problem. People also have to exercise and make lifestyle changes, they said.

Before the fast-food ordinance, 63 per cent of South Los Angeles residents reported being overweight or obese. Three years after the ordinance went into effect, 75 per cent of South Los Angeles residents reported being overweight or obese.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Los Angeles ordinance designed to curb obesity in low-income areas by restricting the opening of new fast-food restaurants has failed to reduce obesity, according to a new study. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Middle East. Netanyahu tones down the rhetoric after diplomatic backlash

Days after winning re-election, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday backtracked from hardline statements against the establishment of a Palestinian state in the face of a diplomatic backlash.

In the closing days of his campaign, Netanyahu said there could be no Palestinian state while regional violence and chaos persist — conditions that could rule out progress on the issue for many years. The comments, aimed at appealing to his nationalist voter base, angered the Obama administration, which views a two-state solution as a top foreign policy priority.

Netanyahu said in a TV interview Thursday that he remains committed to Palestinian statehood — if conditions in the region improve — and to the two-state vision first spelled out in a landmark 2009 speech at Israel's Bar Ilan University.

"I haven't changed my policy," he said in a full interview with MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, excerpts of which were to be shown on NBC's Nightly News later on. "I never retracted my speech."

At the time, he said he would agree to a demilitarized Palestinian state that recognizes Israel as a Jewish state.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Split remains

The outcome of the Israeli election will only deepen polarization, experts say.

- Benjamin Netanyahu's anti-Arab campaign rhetoric and his rejection of a Palestinian state, they say, will further splinter American Jews into hard left and right camps, and intensify conflicts over what it means to be loyal to the Jewish state.

Tunisia

ISIL takes credit for deadly attack

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility Thursday for the attack that killed 21 people at a museum in Tunis, but Tunisian authorities said the two slain gunmen had no clear links to extremists, and analysts said existing militant cells are merely being inspired by the group.

Police announced the arrest of five people described as directly tied to the two gunmen who opened fire Wednesday at the National Bardo Museum.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

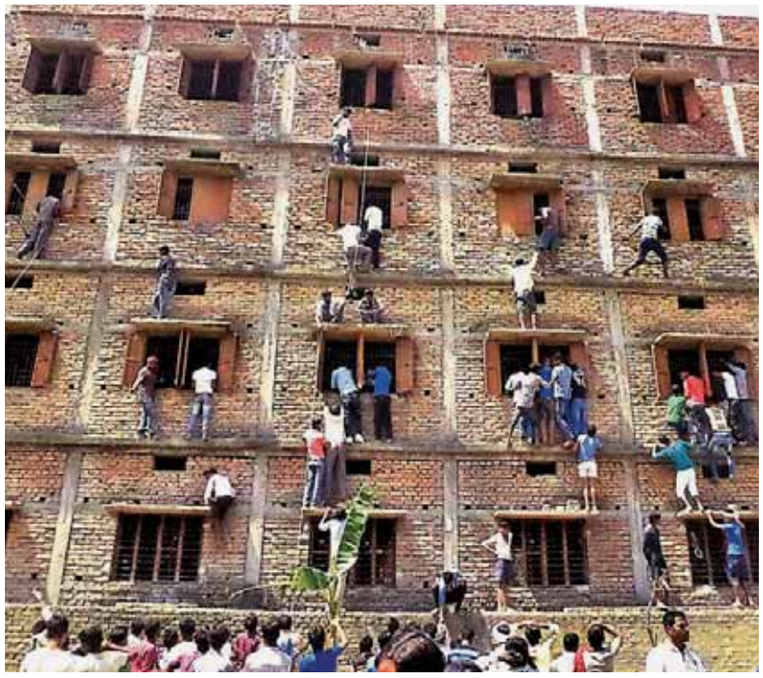
Colorado

Woman accused of cutting open pregnant stranger

Documents show a woman accused of cutting open a pregnant woman and removing her unborn baby had told her own family she was pregnant.

The documents obtained Thursday say suspect Dynel Lane asked her husband to accompany her to a pre-natal appointment on Wednesday.

When he came home, the documents say she reported having a miscarriage and showed him a baby gasping for breath in a bathtub. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cheaters never prosper ... but their kids can

Indians climb the wall of a building to help students during their examination in Hajipur, in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, Wednesday. Even with police presence at exams, parents and relatives are not afraid to scale buildings in order to pass notes in a bid to help their children cheat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Solar eclipse. Sky gazers flock to the Faroe Islands

For months, even years, hotels on the remote Faroe Islands have been fully booked by fans who don't want to miss an almost three-minute-long astronomical sensation. Now the sky gazers just hope the clouds will blow away so they can fully experience Friday's total solar eclipse.

Scores of eclipse-chasers and scientists have invaded the archipelago armed with telescopes, cameras and glasses for safe direct solar viewing ahead of the big event.

The full eclipse will only be seen in a narrow path across the northern hemisphere, reaching the Faroes at 0945 GMT (4:45 a.m. local time) on Friday.

"This is our 10th total eclipse. We love to watch them and being able to look at the corona with your eyes in the middle of the eclipse is really an exciting moment, to experience the diamond rings coming and going," said Les Anderson, a 60-year-old from San Diego, Calif., in the Faroe capital of Torshavn.

The population of the 18 rocky islands between Scotland and Iceland has swelled by approximately 10,000 for a few days from its usual 48,000 souls.

Cloudy skies hang over the hills overlooking the town of Eidi, in the north of the Faroe Islands, Thursday. The 10,000 people who have journeyed to the remote island chain are hoping the skies clear for Friday's solar eclipse. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"There has never, never been so many people on the islands before," said Theresa Kreutzmann, head of the tourism office in Torshavn.

The Faroe Islands is one of the best places to experience the total eclipse, since the moon will cover the sun completely for two minutes 45 seconds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alternative energy

Historic flight soars toward next destination

A solar-powered airplane on a historic round-the-world journey took off Thursday from the northern Indian town of Varanasi and was headed for its next stop in Myanmar.

Swiss pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg are taking turns flying the aircraft as they attempt to circumnavigate the globe on the journey that was expected to take five months.

The fuel-free aircraft, called the Solar Impulse 2, is powered by more than 17,000 solar cells on its wings that recharge the plane's batteries, enabling it to fly during the day or night.

The flight has attracted attention around the world from people who see solar power as the fuel of the future, providing a source of clean, renewable energy.

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	42134	2SS - Convertible Spring Special Edition		$60,800	$49,538
	42136	LT - Coupe Rally Sport Pkg		$35,945	$26,858
	42138	2SS - Convertible Rally Sport Pkg		$56,745	$45,970
	42139	2SS - Coupe Spring Special Edition		$54,090	$43,362
	42144	LT - Coupe Spring Special Edition		$35,945	$26,858
		CRUZE			
	42407	LTZ - RS Pkg		$33,560	$25,177
	42450	LTZ - RS Pkg		$32,325	$24,156
2 TO CHOOSE!	42465	2LT - Sun and Sound		$28,115	$20,704
		ENCLAVE			
	49313	Demo Premium Hit the Road Pkg		$61,765	$48,860
		ENCORE			
	49407	Convenience AWD		$32,523	$26,039
	49414	Convenience Sound Pkg		$33,100	$26,325
	49417	Premium Heated Steering Wheel		$39,880	$32,137
2 TO CHOOSE!	49418	Convenience FWD		$31,125	$24,455
	49419	Convenience FWD		$30,130	$23,579
	49421	Convenience AWD		$32,325	$25,822
	49423	Premium Heated Steering Wheel		$39,880	$31,947
	49429	Convenience Sound Pkg		$35,853	$27,486
	49430	Demo Convenience Sound Pkg		$33,900	$23,940
	49431	Convenience Sound Pkg		$33,100	$26,325
	49432	Premium Heated Steering Wheel		$38,905	$29,351
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	44815	1LT - Sound and Technology Pkg		$30,340	$24,129	
	44821	1LT - Sound and Technology Pkg		$30,385	$24,169	
	44823	Sound and Technology Pkg		$30,190	$23,997	
	44840	1LT - Heated Mirrors		$28,505	$22,514	
	44844	1LT - Heated Mirrors		$28,700	$22,686	2 TO CHOOSE!
	44845	1LT - Heated Mirrors		$28,505	$22,759	3 TO CHOOSE!
	44862	1LT - Sound and Technology Pkg		$30,190	$23,997	2 TO CHOOSE!
	44866	1LT - Sound and Technology Pkg		$30,385	$24,169	
		VERANO				
	49208	Premium Collision Alert		$36,865	$28,789	
	49219	Premium Forward Collision Alert		$36,340	$28,327	
	49239	Premium Forward Collision Alert		$38,460	$30,103	
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CRTC requires $25 'skinny basic' TV

Cable and satellite. Regulator also orders service providers to offer pick-and-pay or small bundle packages

Cable and satellite service providers will have to offer consumers an "entry-level" television service, at a cost of no more than $25 a month, to take effect by March 2016.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission released the new requirements on Thursday.

The new basic packages must include local channels in each service area, as well as channels currently on the CRTC's mandatory distribution list. U.S.-based channels that are currently free over the air in most major Canadian markets near the border — so-called 4-plus-1 channels — will also be included.

The CRTC says TV viewers will then be able to supplement the so-called "skinny basic" package with either individual channels available through a pick-and-pay model, or what it calls small, "reasonably priced" bundled channel packages.

But service providers will have until the end of next year to offer both a la carte channels and theme packages.

Customers who are happy with their current TV offerings won't have to switch.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 78.58¢ (-0.97¢)

Natural gas: $2.813 (-10.7¢)
Dow Jones: 17,959.03 (-117.16)

TSX 14,873.93 (-88.31)

OIL $43.96 US (-70¢)

GOLD $1,169.00 US (+$17.70)

D&G boycott gains momentum

Protesters rally outside the Dolce & Gabbana store in London, Thursday. Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana denigrated surrogacy and same-sex parents in an interview with an Italian magazine last week, prompting Elton John to call for a boycott of the brand. Stars including Martina Navratilova and talk-show host Andy Cohen quickly hopped on board. TIM IRELAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food

Giant doughnut flies off shelves

A Southern California doughnut shop has come up with yet another guilty pleasure gone viral: a gigantic doughnut stuffed with a Pop Tart filling.

Donut Bar calls the one-pound creation the Big Poppa Tart Donut. It sells about 150 of the doughnuts daily, at $4 US each. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Retail

Target getting $1.6B tax break

Target Corp.'s exit from Canada will reap about $1.6 billion US in tax breaks for the retailer in the United States, according to documents filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Monopoly. Tiny Pierre earns spot on new game

Pierre, the tiny South Dakota capital pronounced "peer" by its roughly 14,000 residents, will hold the top spot in a new version of Monopoly featuring U.S. cities coming out this fall. Pierre and 21 other cities will replace the properties in the original 1935 game named after places in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Hasbro Inc. left it to voters to choose which cities would appear in this version and another that will feature the names of world cities.

More than four million votes were cast, and Pierre, the second-smallest state capital, came out first.

The idea of adorning the world-famous monopoly board with Pierre, an old government town whose Capitol building still has saloon-style doors on the bathroom stalls, captivated local officials, media and residents.

The city's part-time mayor Laurie Gill took to the local radio stations, teachers developed class activities around the contest and the state tourism department sent out social media blasts encouraging South Dakotans to help land Pierre on the board.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Airports

Group seeking 'behaviour detection' records

A civil rights group is trying to force the U.S. government to turn over information about airport "behaviour detection" programs designed to spot passengers who are potential threats.

A Freedom of Information Act lawsuit was filed Thursday in federal court in New York City.

The American Civil Liberties Union says there are no known instances in which the techniques were responsible for apprehending someone who posed a security threat.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More Uber cars than cabs in N.Y.C., new figures show

Transportation. Taxi commission's numbers indicate commuters still hail more yellow cabs than Uber

New York City's storied yellow cabs are taking a back seat to black cars.

Uber cars, often black sedans that can be summoned with smartphone apps, now outnumber the yellow taxis that city riders have hailed with a whistle and a wave for generations.

It was a changing-of-the-guard moment that passed with little fanfare this week in figures released by the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission: 14,088 registered Uber cars compared with 13,587 yellow cabs.

But it hardly means yellow cabs are out of favour. In fact, there are about 440,000 yellow cab rides a day, compared to just 20,000 to 30,000 Uber rides. That's because Uber drivers often own their own cars and work less than 40 hours a week, while most yellow taxis are owned by cab companies, have more than one driver and are on the road close to 24 hours a day.

"Yellow cab rides significantly outstrip the number of black car rides," said Meera Joshi, chairwoman of the taxi commission. "So the number of their affiliated vehicles in and of itself doesn't paint a complete picture."

Uber was introduced in New York City in 2011 and has grown steadily in popularity, particularly among tech-savvy customers who are comfortable hailing rides through an app that shows when a car is on the way. A customer can even follow its progress with a blip on a street map. Similar companies such as Lyft use apps to connect with riders.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Commuters line up for cabs outside Grand Central Station in New York City. Uber cars now outnumber the yellow taxis that city riders have for generations hailed with a whistle and a wave. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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VOICES

SILENCE DOESN'T LEAD TO CHANGE

THE KOHLER REPORT
By Rebecca Kohler

Would you like a biscotti with your coffee or would you prefer a conversation about a white cop shooting a black man in Ferguson? They'd certainly both give you something to chew on.

If you haven't heard, Starbucks has launched an awareness campaign called Race Together in which it's asking its baristas in U.S. stores to strike up conversations with customers about race relations. If you're wondering if Pumpkin Spice is considered a race, it's not.

The good news is that people of all races have united on social media in HATING this idea, so maybe that's a great start?

I don't like to be a fence-sitter, but I'm really torn on this one. Part of me likes it, the other part is ever so slightly throwing up in my mouth. Let's discuss.

The cynical, vomitus side of me sees this is a corporation possibly capitalizing on the idea of discrimination. "Hey! Maybe if we act like we care about this issue, people will buy more rustic egg-white breakfast sandwiches!... Oh no, is it racist to say egg-white? Change that to no-yolk."

This reminds me of Bell's Let's Talk campaign, which was Bell Canada's way of raising awareness about mental illness.

While I'm all for hearing about people's struggles with depression, etc. (I have my own), it turned my tum to see them hashtag their stories on Facebook with the phone company's name.

Should an admission of having felt suicidal double as an advertisement for an Internet service provider?

There's also just the fact that this idea seems impractical.

What happens if a discussion gets deep and the barista can't keep up with the orders? If Race Together were happening in Canada and I was in line, I wouldn't want to find myself resenting a well-meaning conversation about whether or not a niqab is appropriate attire for a Canadian citizenship ceremony.

And I'm usually in a rush when I go to Starbucks — I wouldn't want to look flippant should someone ask me about Canada's treatment of indigenous people: "Yeah, yeah, it's terrible. Gotta go!"

Then there's the part of me that thinks this is a great idea that should be commended and a lead that should be followed.

Let's talk ... but maybe not right now

I'm usually in a rush when I go to Starbucks — I wouldn't want to look flippant should someone ask me about Canada's treatment of indigenous people: "Yeah, yeah, it's terrible. Gotta go!"

No, it's not perfect, in that, as many have pointed out, the baristas aren't race relations experts and the Starbucks customer demographic is largely young and privileged.

But does that mean they just shouldn't talk? Is that ever a better solution? Maybe if they talk to each other they will learn things. There was a time I didn't know how to tie my shoes — should I have kept silent on the matter because I was an ignoramus?

No. Had I not conversed about laces with my parents, I'd be tripping all over myself to this day.

Like with Bell Let's Talk campaign — at least people were talking, right? The more this stuff gets talked about, the better. Discussions spark thoughts, questions and curiosities. Convos in Starbucks will bleed into workplace and home. Silence doesn't lead to change, conversations do.

This softer side of me also believes that the man behind this ideological plan, Starbucks chief executive Howard Schultz, is genuinely trying to do a good thing (while also selling scones).

Others aren't so convinced, wanting to know, for instance, if he's so "concerned" why only 16 per cent of Starbucks executives are people of colour?

Well, that's an interesting statistic.

Maybe that's the kind of thing you could discuss with a barista at Starbucks — a barista who might then discuss it with her manager who might mention the conversation at an annual Starbucks conference.

Maybe it'll get into Howard Schultz's ear and he'll take it to heart and make change? Or, yeah, I guess we could just not talk at all.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From cooking in Walmart to getting kicked out of Ikea, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:

METH LAB BUST AT WALMART

Where's the health and safety committee when you need it? A Walmart washroom in Indiana was shut down after an employee discovered a mobile meth lab inside a backpack left there. Perhaps the weirdest part of this story is that this was not an isolated incident, with others cooking up a storm at various Walmarts over the years. Police say mobile labs are a growing trend with those who'd rather not risk the chance of explosions in their own homes, but we don't think this is what the Walmart people meant by Save Money, Live Better.

A CLASSIC TAIL

Dear heartbroken person whose beloved pet went missing: We hope you will find some measure of comfort in this story. Kevin the orange tabby went AWOL in South Carolina a few years back, but turned up in Palm Springs this week when a woman found him hitched to her U-Haul trailer. Once reunited with Kevin, his owner joked that he's seen more of the country than she has, but if Kevin has taught her — and us — anything, surely it's that there is always hope.

BUDDHA BAN

In a move that's about as far from enlightenment as you can get, three men in Myanmar will spend the next 2-1/2 years in prison for posting an image of Buddha wearing headphones on their Facebook page. After getting complaints, the trio apologized for their "ignorance," but that didn't stop the judge from convicting them of denigrating the religion. In a small, symbolic act of solidarity, we're republishing the offending image here.

BELLE ÉPOQUE

Model life: Now with more croissants. If France passes a proposed law, it'll join other countries like Spain, Italy and Israel in banning the use of extremely thin models in the fashion industry. The legislation would require agencies to get medical certificates from models to prove that they have a healthy BMI and models would have to get routine checkups.

CONSUMERS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

Ikea always seemed like such a fun company with their ball rooms, delightfully—albeit suspiciously — cheap breakfasts and the über-funky spellings. But even cool corporations have their limits. The Swedish multinational drew its line in the sand with giant hide-and-seek parties in the Netherlands that drew thousands to Ikea stores. The furniture giant said that while it doesn't like being a spoilsport, safety comes first. We're not sure where the party is being moved to, but it's probably best they steer clear of Walmarts in Indiana for the time being.

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Penning a list of Sean's great roles

Analysis. The Gunman star says he forgets films he's worked on within a week of wrapping. Here's a rundown to jog his memory

Sean Penn stars in The Gunman, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Sean Penn is back on the big screen this weekend in The Gunman, his first leading role in almost four years. It can't rightly be called a comeback because he never really went away. Supporting roles in The Secret Life of Walter Mitty and Gangster Squad have generated column inches, but in the last five years he has devoted more energy to raising money for earthquake relief in Haiti than being a movie star.

In the film, he plays Special Forces military contractor Jim Terrier. By day he protects foreign workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but he moonlights as a hired gunman for big corporations. His assassination of the Congolese Mining Minister forces him to flee the country and changes the course of his entire life.

It's what Penn jokingly calls "geriaction," an action movie starring a middle-aged actor. Other than that, don't expect to hear him speak a great deal about his new film. "Honestly within a week after I've finished shooting a film I've almost forgotten it," he said recently.

In February he was honoured with an honorary César Award for "choosing his films with sensitivity and commitment." At the ceremony, the "legend in his lifetime" watched a clip reel spanning the width and breadth of his career, including excerpts from Dead Men Walking, Mystic River and Milk.

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE

Later the actor said, "I remember playing none of those scenes. I remembered the movies (but) I saw myself in scenes with actors I didn't even know I'd ever worked with!"

To jog Mr. Penn's memory here's a list of some of his memorable roles:

1. In Milk, Penn won a best actor Oscar playing the real-life Harvey Milk, a native New Yorker who became America's first openly gay man to be elected to public office. Penn fully embraces Milk, from the thick New York accent that characterized his speech to the goofy grin that endeared the real-life activist to his supporters, both gay and straight.

2. This Must Be The Place is a rare thing. I speak of that elusive beast *Pennigma Seanun comoedia* — the Sean Penn comedy. He plays a retired and world-weary American rock star living with his wife (Frances McDormand) in Ireland. This is Sean Penn like we've never seen him before. With poufy hair, black toenail polish and affected vocal cadence — like Andy Warhol on Quaaludes — he creates an intriguing, strange character.

3. In Hollywood dramedy Hurly Burly, Penn played against type as Eddie, the hyperactive casting agent. It's an emotionally raw performance — witness Eddie try and use cocaine to snort away his troubles — but one without the studied glumness that he frequently brings to the screen.

4. Fair Game could be retitled One Hundred Minutes of Sean Penn Yelling 'If We Don't Tell the Truth No One Will!' He's Joseph Wilson, the real-life whistleblower who claimed the Bush administration falsified information about the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Penn is passionate, crafting a performance so big it has its own gravitational pull.

5. Finally there's All The King's Men, a movie memorable for all the wrong reasons. Penn is a fine actor, but as Willie Stark, (loosely based on Louisiana governor Huey P. Long) he is so over the top it's as if he's acting in a different movie than the rest of the cast. It's a vein-popping, arm-waving performance that suggests that maybe he should lay off the Red Bull.

Richard's ratings

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Typecasting makes Sean Penn cranky

Movies. The actor of a certain age follows in the footsteps of Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson with Gunman — just don't tell him that

NED EHRBAR
Metro in NYC

Sean Penn stars in The Gunman. CONTRIBUTED

Sean Penn is just trying to promote his new film, The Gunman, but people keep bringing up the Oscars and that whole "green card" joke he made when Birdman won Best Picture.

"I'm always surprised by flagrant stupidity. I keep having more hope," he says.

"I have absolutely no apologies. In fact, I have a big f— you for anybody who is so stupid not to have gotten the irony when you've got a country that is so xenophobic. If they had their way, you wouldn't have great filmmakers like Alejandro (Gonzalez Inarritu) working in this country. Thank God we do."

As for critics who lambasted the actor for insensitivity on the immigration issue, he has some even more direct words: "I think they can be a bit more cheerful," Penn says with a shrug. "I think what's most offensive is we're attaching a protective sensibility to something which is meant to create self-censorship in people's interactions.

"I think that when somebody as special as Alejandro makes a film as special as Birdman was, that if he has a friend on stage, that maybe that friend wants to let him know that he won privately for a moment before the room knows and he did, cause there was a history there. So I wanted him to know it first, and that's who I was talking to, so I don't give a f— about all those other people."

But about The Gunman.

It's directed by Pierre Morel, who made Liam Neeson an action star with Taken.

And given that Penn is also a respected actor of a certain age, natural comparisons have been drawn — not that he agrees with the assessment.

"I thought Harrison Ford made a whole career on this stuff and I didn't think it was considered, like, a new trend or anything like that — what I call geriaction," Penn says.

"But there are aspects of this that have nothing to do with that, also. Admittedly there's a tremendous amount of action, one can't say it's not an action movie, but it's a different kind of movie also because it's not a 'wink at the audience' movie. This is more straight."

But action is action, and Penn, who got in impressive shape for the film — a shape he shows off by ditching his shirt whenever possible — didn't escape entirely without injuries.

"Little ones," he admits. "We got away without anything serious happening. There was an extraordinarily achy body at the end of the film, but that's accumulative."

Even if The Gunman enjoys Taken levels of success, he's not necessarily eyeing a franchise, and not just because of the aches and pains.

"I've never looked at a movie as beyond a movie, and in that case I wouldn't allow myself to think about that.

"I hope the best for this movie, we worked hard, a lot of people have worked hard and invested in this. I got projects I want to direct and that's what I want to focus on."

Of course, ask him immediately after he's finished filming, and he'd tell you he'll never make another movie again, sequel or no sequel.

"I think if I can remember what it feels like after it's done, that I would never do it again," Penn admits. "But it's a perishable awareness."

Quited

"There was an extraordinarily achy body at the end of the film, but that's accumulative."

Sean Penn
on the results of starring in the action film The Gunman

Interview. Aubrey Plaza would love to join the Marvel Cinematic Universe

Aubrey Plaza has made a name for herself in the comedy and independent film world with projects like the recently wrapped Parks and Recreation and her SXSW film premiere, Fresno. But that doesn't mean she wouldn't be down to suit up for something in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

"I would love to play some kind of badass superhero, that would be awesome. I'm sure everyone would. What's not to love about that?" Plaza says. "I would love that. I mean, the reason I do movies is I like to be transported, and any kind of supernatural element in movies, I love that kind of stuff. I really like doing grounded, indie movies also, but the reason I fell in love with acting and movies was because I wanted to, like, play an alien from another dimension, do things that only happen in your imagination. So the Marvel world is totally up my alley. But you must be chosen for those kinds of movies. So hopefully, someday."

The only question, of course, is which comic-book character she could play. I'm going to go with Spider-Woman. Or maybe a new female Hawkeye.

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN AUSTIN

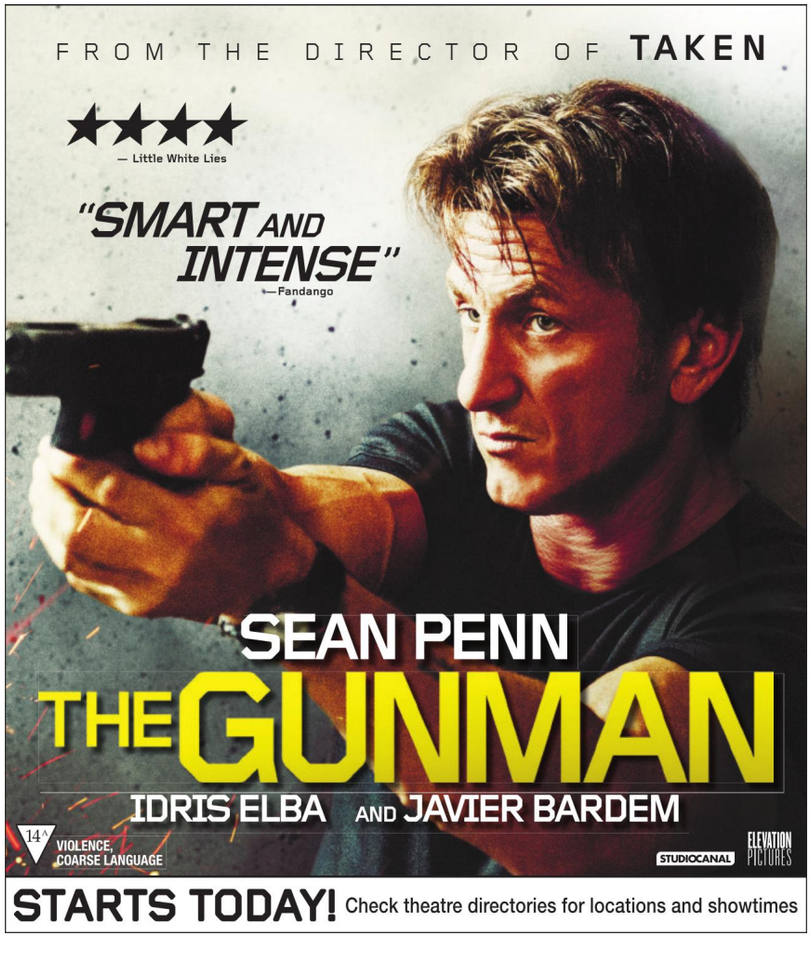
New projects

Paul Feig dishes on Ghostbusters

While at SXSW to premiere Spy, director Paul Feig gave Metro an update on his next project with Melissa McCarthy, the all-female Ghostbusters. His reaction to the news about that other, all-male Ghostbusters was a surprise. "I'd heard rumblings about it. It was just a bummer that the media played it as a men versus women thing, because that was nobody's intention. Honestly, I'm not sure what their master plan is. All I can do is concentrate on my four ladies, who are going to kick ass."

And he's been the target of online vitriol for helming an all-female Ghostbusters cast. "I've read plenty of angry tweets like, 'Just because that's the way you see it, you're going to ruin it for everybody else.' I'm always sympathetic to people's feelings on this stuff, but it really has exposed a lot. It's really s—ty, but it's also the curse of anonymity. People can just be f—ing assholes."

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN AUSTIN



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Beyond Beverly Hills bad girl

Interview. Shannen Doherty is a far cry from bratty Brenda

Jason Priestley wrote about fellow Beverly Hills, 90210 alum Shannen Doherty in his tell-all memoir, but don't expect her to do the same.

Doherty, who will attend Toronto ComiCon this weekend, admits she "lived too publicly" in her 20s and now enjoys a "very private" life.

As such, she wouldn't want to spill details about her family members, friends or co-stars in book form, says the actress.

"I've always felt that memoirs should be about yourself and not about others, because personally, I just find it to be rude to write bad things about other people," says Doherty, 43, in a telephone interview.

"But that goes to an old saying that my mom raised me with, which is, 'If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all.'

"I always think, even if I worked with someone, I have no idea what they were personally going through during that time period, so who am I to judge someone else?"

Doherty adds that she's always viewed a TV or film set "as a very, very, very private sanctuary."

"I take that Vegas phrase, 'What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas' and I apply it to a set. Not everybody does, and that's fine."

In last year's Jason Priestley: A Memoir, the Vancouver-born actor-director writes of some diva-type behaviour from Doherty during their days on Beverly Hills, 90210 in the '90s.

Shannen Doherty says she'd be up for starring in a scripted TV series again.
GETTY IMAGES

Doherty says she hasn't read the book, but notes that Priestley recently reached out to her to make amends and she wishes him the best: "I adore him, I think he's great, I think he's talented."

She says she's seen several fans of her Charmed TV series at such conventions with the show's symbol tattooed on their bodies. She's also seen a fan with a back tattoo of her face.

"I was like, 'Wow, thank God they got it while I still looked really good,'" Doherty says with a laugh.

She says she would like to star on a scripted TV series again, but it would have to be a role she could stand to play for several years — unlike her character Brenda Walsh from Beverly Hills, 90210.

"When Brenda changed and became sort of bratty, I started hating her," says Doherty. "I was miserable playing her after a while. I was like, 'God, there's just so much angst and drama in this girl's life.'"

Doherty left Beverly Hills, 90210 after the fourth season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Details

- **Doherty, who starred in the 1998 movie Heathers with Winona Ryder, right, will appear at Toronto ComiCon this weekend, Fan Expo Vancouver (April 3-5) and Fan Expo Regina (April 25-26).**

Interview. Nigel Barker heaps praise on Canadian model Coco Rocha

In Nigel Barker's profiles of models that helped shape the fashion industry, a cluster of Canadians make the cut — and Coco Rocha ranks high on the photographer's list.

"I'm a big fan of Coco," Barker said of the Toronto-born, Richmond, B.C.-raised Rocha, one of 50 famous faces featured in his new book Models of Influence (Harper Design).

"I believe that she will be seen as a supermodel of the era when we look back because of many things. Not just the fact that she's successful and she has many magazine covers and all the rest of it, but really how she's utilized social media — one of the very first models to understand that medium."

Nigel Barker
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barker, host of modelling competition series The Face, said social media has played a pivotal role in further propelling the careers of models and other celebrities, translating to appearances in high-profile campaigns and fashion editorials.

"The designers and the editors and the photographers see who has the most likes, and hence, Kim Kardashian (and) Kanye West on the cover of Vogue; Kate Upton on the cover of Vanity Fair," said the former America's Next Top Model judge. "You can say it may not just be that, but I think we all know it's playing a large part."

Coco Rocha
GETTY IMAGES

Barker draws on the archives of leading fashion photographers — including the late Richard Avedon, Irving Penn and Herb Ritts — for images to illustrate his profiles of noteworthy female models from the 1940s to the present.

Among those featured are one-name wonders Iman and Twiggy, '70s stars Jerry Hall and Lauren Hutton, supermodels Tyra Banks, Cindy Crawford and Naomi Campbell and modern-day phenoms Gisele Bündchen and Cara Delevingne.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
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A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order; Permanent Guardianship Order** of your child born on **February 28, 2015**.

If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

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CENTURY DOWNS

Memes gone wild

Those pilfered, captioned and shared photos that make us either cringe, rage or laugh out loud are as old as the Internet itself, but in these wild online times, is there any recourse for their victims?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Meloni a.k.a Detective Stabler

Some irreverent Law & Order: SVU fans have taken on the noble task of making star Chris Meloni a star by posting odd and ridiculous photos of the actor and captioning it simply with "These are their stories," the tag on the opening narration on the show. The results are simple, bizarre and utterly delightful. Also, apparently Meloni really likes to stretch while on set. That guy is flexible. **NED EHRBAR/METRO**

Bad Luck Brian

Kyle Craven and his gaudy sweater became the face of early teen awkwardness and general misfortune known as Bad Luck Brian when a friend uploaded a yearbook photo outtake to Facebook. Now in his mid-20s with years of Internet culture conventions behind him, Carver says the ghastly shot was a deliberate sabotage, telling the Washington Post, "Picture days were always fun days for me." **ANDREW FIFIELD/METRO**

Overly Attached Girlfriend

Unlike her web culture colleagues, Laina Morris willingly jumped into the deep end of the meme pond when she created Overly Attached Girlfriend — a deeply committed romantic partner who whispers her creepy sweet nothings with wide-eyed intensity.
ANDREW FIFIELD/METRO

Memes, by definition viral little beasties, are everywhere. And they have many heads — shaming wrongdoers, bullying innocents and poking fun at an awkward facial expression, family portrait or school photo.

"When one of these mobs fixes on you, it's like a Lovecraftian horror," said James Grimmelmann, a professor at the University of Maryland who specializes in Internet law. "Only madness awaits. It can be beyond the power of individuals to do a lot about it.''

Kyra Pringle knows that first-hand.

The South Carolina mother of a two-year-old with a grim life expectancy from a rare genetic disorder happily posted a picture on Facebook from her daughter's recent birthday, only to have the image rudely captioned and spread — sometimes gruesomely Photoshopped — thousands of times and her ill child compared to a monster, alien and leprechaun due to her unique facial features.

"This is bullying. This is not right. She's fought for her life since she got here," Pringle told NBC affiliate WCBD-TV near her Summerville home. "She's not a monster. She's not fake. She's real. She's here."

Private companies that own social media streams and channels juggle a broad range of take-down demands and other content issues such as copyright infringement, high-stakes privacy invasion and online harassment. But it can be difficult to eradicate viral content like photo memes altogether.

"We don't tolerate bullying or harassment on Facebook and Instagram, and remove content that appears to purposefully target people with the intention of degrading or shaming them," the company said in an email when asked about memes.

Not all photo meming is tragic and not all sharers are evildoers. Some subjects or initiators take it as good fun, embracing their accidental Internet celebrity.

Nearly three years ago, Kasey Woods in Waldorf, Md., put up a photo of her smiley baby daughter in a pink top and huge Afro wig that was left over from Halloween. Woods posted it first to Facebook, when her page was set to public, then put the same image on her public Instagram feed a year later.

Friends started alerting her last year that the photo was catching on. It continues to pop up at least two or three times a week somewhere, including one version with a caption that reads: "Have a Blacknificent Day."

The image has been liked, shared and commented upon several thousand times.

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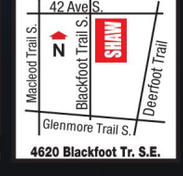

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Now in theatres

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:*

Action/Adventure

The Gunman

Director. Pierre Morel

Stars. Sean Penn, Idris Elba

The Gunman, the new action thriller from Pierre Morel, the director of Taken, stars Sean Penn, Javier Bardem, Idris Elba, Ray Winstone and Mark Rylance.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 17% **Audience:** 90%

Adventure/Sci-Fi

The Divergent Series: Insurgent

Director. Robert Schwentke

Stars. Shailene Woodley, Theo James

In this thrilling and nail-biting entry in the Divergent series, Tris and Four seek refuge outside the city with the Amity faction. They convene with other Divergents and exiled survivors, and plot to fight back against the warmongering Dauntless and despot Jeanine Matthews.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** 75%

Mystery/Suspense

Run All Night

Director. Jaume Collet-Serra

Stars. Liam Neeson, Natalie Martinez

Liam Neeson reunites with Unknown director Jaume Collet-Serra for this Warner Bros. thriller following a mob hit man and his estranged son (Joel Kinnaman) as they flee the wrath of a vengeful crime boss.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 59% **Audience:** 90%

Comedy

The Cobbler

Director. Tom McCarthy

Stars. Adam Sandler, Method Man

Max Simkin (Adam Sandler) repairs shoes in the same New York shop that has been in his family for generations. Disenchanted with the grind of daily life, Max stumbles upon a magical heirloom that allows him to step into the lives of his customers and see the world in a new way.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 19% **Audience:** 81%

Sci-Fi & Fantasy/Romance

Cinderella

Director. Kenneth Branagh

Stars. Lily James, Cate Blanchett

Cate Blanchett stars in this new vision of the Cinderella tale from director Kenneth Branagh and the screenwriting team of Chris Weitz and Aline Brosh McKenna for Disney Pictures.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 88% **Audience:** 98%

Comedy

Miss Julie

Director. Liv Ullmann

Stars. Jessica Chastain, Colin Farrell

Miss Julie depicts a fierce battle between a man and a woman, a struggle for power and dominance enacted through a cruel and compulsive game of seduction and repulsion.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 48% **Audience:** 31%

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Biopic. Disney Channel green lights movie about Little League sensation

Mo'ne Davis, who last summer made history as the first girl to pitch a shutout in the Little League World Series, is serving as a consultant on a Disney Channel movie set to be made about her life. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Little League pitching sensation Mo'ne Davis will be the subject of a Disney Channel movie.

The network says development is underway on the biographical film, titled Throw Like Mo. It will tell the story of the 13-year-old who last summer made history as the first girl to pitch a shutout in the Little League World Series.

A member of Philadelphia's Taney Dragons, Davis then became the first Little Leaguer to make the cover of Sports Illustrated magazine.

She will serve as a consultant on the movie, which she hopes will encourage viewers to believe that dreams can really come true.

Disney Channel didn't specify an airdate or cast. But Davis says she can't wait to get started.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New projects

Sarah Polley tapped to pen Little Women adaptation

Little Women is set to make a return to the big screen with a new remake produced by Sony.

Oscar-nominated screenwriter Sarah Polley has been drafted to adapt Louisa May Alcott's classic post-Civil War American tale, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The book was first published in 1868 and was most recently adapted for screen in 1994 in a version starring Kirsten Dunst and Claire Danes.

It follows the lives of four sisters Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy March.

Former Sony co-chairman Amy Pascal will act as producer.

AFP

Sarah Polley
AFP

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The kids haven't changed, we have

The Breakfast Club.
After 30 years, breakout teen film's flaws exposed

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

Make no mistake, for better or worse, late writer-director John Hughes was the titan of '80s teen angst, responsible for a slew of pictures that aimed to humorously examine the average American teenager while amassing much critical acclaim and box-office success in the process.

But Hughes' magnum opus is, without question 1985's The Breakfast Club, a talky tale in which five misfit teens endure a day of Saturday detention together and ultimately realize that they're not so different after all.

Sure, the film is often funny and the then-young cast is game, with Anthony Michael-Hall, Ally Sheedy and Judd Nelson standouts with their expert comic timing and dramatic chops.

But for all its good intentions and repute, the hard truth is that The Breakfast Club stands more today as an exercise in high camp than a realistic peek into high school life.

The fact that anyone once took it seriously at all is a potent indictment of just how shallow and naive the "me decade" truly was.

In honour of the film's 30th anniversary, Cineplex is bringing it back to theatres for two showings on March 21 and 25.

Here Metro takes a brief look at some of The Breakfast Club's least appetizing elements — a list sure to offend those who grew up with the film.

Everyone's white

Hughes' previous film Sixteen Candles stands as one of the most racist teen films ever (Long Duck Dong, anyone?) so for The Breakfast Club, he decided to just paint the screen alabaster and call it a day.

Everyone here is white. And clean. And well-fed, and witty.

Including the faculty.

Sexual assault ain't funny

If Sixteen Candles had date rape played for laughs, the scene in which Nelson, hiding under Molly Ringwald's desk, eyeballing her crotch and biting down hard while she stifles her shock to save face, is equally wrong.

Designed to be lewdly amusing, it's just kind of unpleasant, with Hughes suggesting that Ringwald is only mildly annoyed by the incident, in turn painting Nelson as nothing more than a brat, rather than the criminal he is.

Get over it, kids!

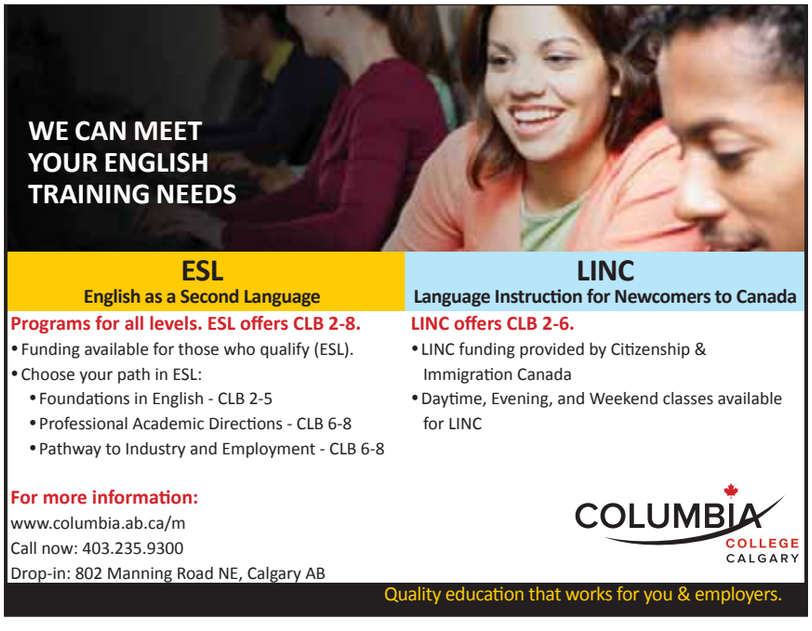
These whiny, self-obsessed kids may have a few hang-ups, but suffering to the point of sympathy? Hardly. From Hall's suicide attempt after getting a bad grade in shop class, to Sheedy's dandruff, none of it rings true. Even troubled, boorish bad boy Judd Nelson somehow makes it to detention on time. The fact that Nelson even shows up to detention at all, single-handedly revokes his cartoonish anti-establishment status.

Emilio Estevez's dance

Add up the most cringe-inducing moments seen on screen in the '80s and all of them combined wouldn't come close to equalling the operatic shame of seeing a stoned Estevez break into the most awesomely idiotic dance in film history.

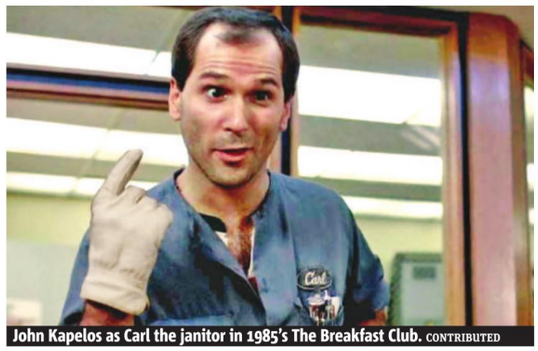
Said spastic herky-jerky is meant to signify Estevez's rebellion against the confines of his father's athletic expectations, or something.

Whatever the hell it is, it's a jaw-dropper!



Carl the janitor spills Breakfast Club secrets

Coming-of-age film's 30th anniversary.
Canadian actor takes us behind-the-scenes of the '80s teen classic


John Kapelos as Carl the janitor in 1985's The Breakfast Club. CONTRIBUTED

For anyone who grew up loving The Breakfast Club, take a look at the film today and see who you most identify with now, advises its Canadian co-star John Kapelos.

Fans revisiting the classic flick after 30 years may find themselves looking differently at the film's two world-weary adults — Paul Gleason's bitter assistant principal Richard (Dick) Vernon and Kapelos's straight-talking Carl, the janitor.

"These movies are like prisms, you can see them from different angles," says Kapelos, who notes that friends now tell him they identify most with Dick.

"Obviously, when you see them from a younger angle you go, 'Oh yeah, I'm totally Molly,' or 'I'm totally this.'"

Get the London, Ont. native reminiscing, and the stories flow easily — about forging a bond with Hughes that extended to roles on 16 Candles and Weird Science; about spending eight years before that with Second City (where John Candy was his teacher); and going on to a diverse career in film and TV, with credits including Transparent, Justified, The Republic of Doyle, and Forever Knight.

For trivia fans, Kapelos offers up a couple of little known facts about The Breakfast Club:

1. On the cutting room floor is a lengthy monologue from Carl predicting where each of the kids would end up decades later

"Basically I told Molly, 'You're going to be a suburban mom driving a Ford, you're going to have stretch marks from here to Cleveland, five kids, unhappy, alcoholic.' And then I go to Michael, he's going to be a big lawyer, make big money. (I say), 'You're going to work on Wall Street, be a big jerk, and you're going to have a big heart attack. Dead at 42.'

"'OK, Judd, you're going to be a felon, you're going to be in Chino (prison) for five years, then you're going to go to (the) penitentiary ... Ally, you're going to be a loft artist. You're going to live off the kindness of others, you're never going to be happy. Your art will never be recognized and actually it won't be that good ...' (Hughes) would say, 'Too tough.'"

2. Somewhere, there is a DVD full of The Breakfast Club outtakes

"Molly told me that Nancy Hughes, John's wife, has a DVD copy of the movie with all the extras that will never see the light of day," Kapelos says tantalizingly.

What is on it, exactly, could never be known. But given Hughes's penchant to shoot multiple takes and encourage off-script improvisations, there's a wealth of material to draw from, says Kapelos.

"When I see the movie, I just remember all those things that aren't in there."

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Hoffman gets to play at his first love in music role

Movie. Wannabe-musician-turned-actor tickled to star as Boychoir's choirmaster

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

As an actor, two-time Academy Award winner Dustin Hoffman has created some indelible characters — Midnight Cowboy's Ratso Rizzo and Tootsie to name a couple — but from an early age he dreamed of being a professional pianist.

"I wanted to be a musician but I was never talented enough," he says, "so I'm not a musician. I have small hands — and by the way there is no correlation to your hands and personal parts — so I can't reach much more than an octave."

In the new film Boychoir he shows his musical side playing a choirmaster to a group of talented youngsters.

As a young man, he studied classical piano, but when it became apparent he'd never turn pro, he tried his hand at acting.

"I had been flunking out of junior college and somebody said, 'Try acting. Nobody flunks acting.'"

Enrolling at the Pasadena Playhouse, he shared a room with Robert Duvall and studied with Gene Hackman.

"No one told me I was a good actor," he says. "No one told Gene, and there was a third person, Duvall. They are both much, much older than me. If someone was to say to the three of us in those early days that we were going to be successful, forget about being movie stars, everyone would have laughed. It's kind of a freak accident that it happened to all three of us."

Hoffman's big break came in the form of Benjamin Braddock in The Graduate. Robert Redford was considered for the part, but director Mike Nichols rejected the traditionally handsome actor — "You can't play it," he told Redford. "You can never play a loser" — in favour of the unknown Hoffman. The Graduate made him a star and is now considered a classic, but almost 50 years later he remembers how the critics savaged his performance.

The barbs hurt at the time, but he doesn't let them get under his skin any more. "Critics are ... I shouldn't say," he laughs, "I don't know if anyone grows up saying, 'When I grow up, I want to be a critic.'"

Quoted

"I had been flunking out of junior college and somebody said, 'Try acting, Nobody flunks acting.'"
Dustin Hoffman

Dustin Hoffman plays a choirmaster in Boychoir. CONTRIBUTED

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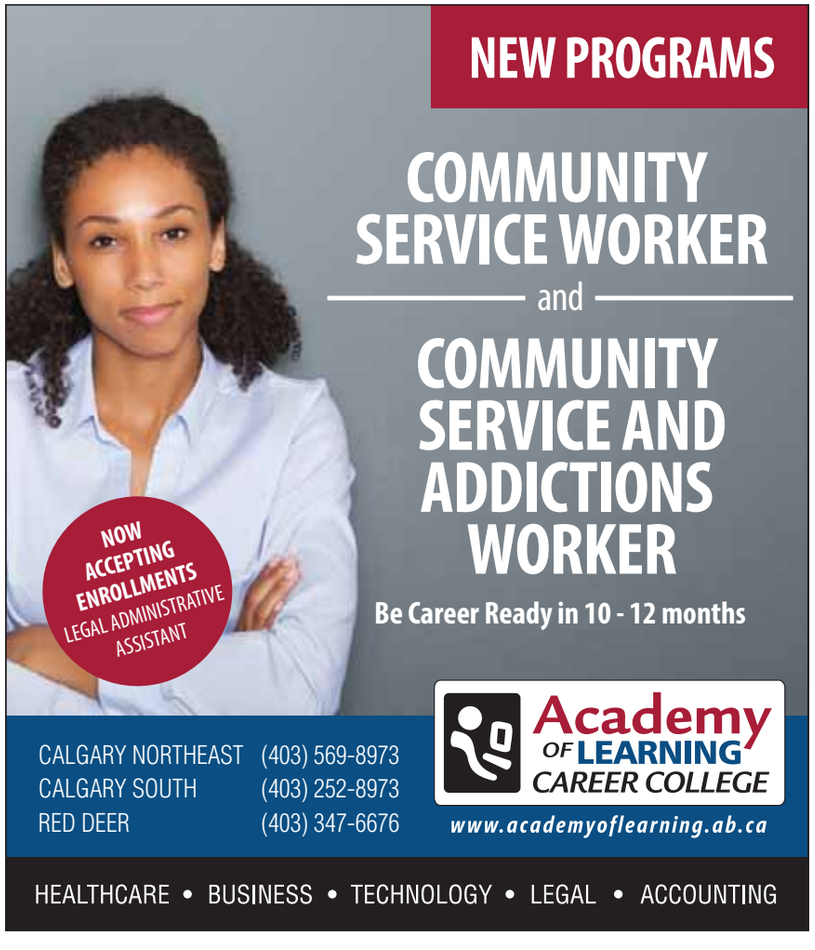

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Let the dogs have their day

Film. Animal trainer Teresa Ann Miller talks training over 250 pups for White God

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

For animal trainer Teresa Ann Miller, the only thing more difficult than working with more than 250 dogs on the Budapest set of White God was working with all those dogs' trainers.

"That was tough, and especially for the amount that we had," said the L.A.-based canine expert about the Hungarian dramatic movie. "They knew my reputation in Europe because I had been there for 20 years on a very successful TV show but again, when you go there with your trainers, you never know how that relationship is going to go."

Lucky for Miller, the experience was exceptional and the acclaimed drama about a stray dog's quest to find its 13-year-old owner even won the acclaimed Un Certain Regard prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

While the premise may sound similar to heart-tugging family classics like Lassie Come Home, White God's journey is violent and features packs of canines in scenes involving dogfights and dangerous traffic.

"It's always going to be safe," insisted Miller of the turbulent traffic scene.

Although the lovable pup was protected with a safety band tied to his waist, Miller admits filming a dog dodging fast cars takes an entire crew.

"I teach him to step forward (and) step back and it's kind of a dance we do. Once he learns those cues, it's a matter of putting in those cars," said Miller. "He really was in no danger (but) he really looked trapped and isolated, trying to cross the street."

While the movie is winning praise as a metaphor for fomenting cultural strife in Europe, Miller is simply appreciating the added attention for her particularly passive style of training.

"A mistake that people make is they try to dominate the dog," advised Miller. "I don't yell at them. In fact, I accomplish more by not saying anything ... over-dominating a dog only creates a fearful dog that isn't going to participate in things, let alone work on a film without a leash."

White God opens March 27. CONTRIBUTED

Dogs will be dogs

"Most of the training I do is really focused on not just an animal being part of a film, but the animal being a character," said Miller.

- "I might capture them doing something a little more natural before I have them run out of the scene. That's just allowing a dog to be a dog."

Animal trainer Teresa Ann Miller. MAGNOLIA PICTURES

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Mekhi Phifer plays Max in The Divergent Series: Insurgent, out this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Mekhi Phifer is just along for the ride

Insurgent. The actor says he picks his roles based on what's good, plain and simple

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Years before Mekhi Phifer played the stern-faced Dauntless enforcement officer Max in this weekend's The Divergent Series: Insurgent, he displayed a dauntless attitude that got him his first acting job.

The year was 1994, the movie was Spike Lee's Clockers and over 1,000 people showed up for an open casting call.

"I went with my cousin," he says, "not knowing anything about the audition or open casting call process. Spike Lee auditioned me about seven or eight different times. I had to read with Harvey Keitel and Isaiah Washington and do improvisations. I had never done that type of stuff before so to have gotten that was a whirlwind; I just thought that was the norm. That's how you cast movies — a thousand people come in."

He won the lead role and parlayed that into a string of memorable characters in movies like 8 Mile, and TV shows like ER, where he played Dr. Greg Pratt for six seasons and the Dr. Who spinoff, the sci-fi series Torchwood: Miracle Day.

"I am a big fan of sci-fi," he says. "And that was part of the allure (to signing on for the Divergent series), but the other part was that it was good. I'm not looking for one particular genre or one particular type of film. I usually just gravitate towards what's good."

He plays Max, leader of Dauntless, the warrior bloc of a Big Brother-style government that has divided the post-apocalyptic Chicago into five factions. In the new film, his job is to hunt down and capture fugitives Tris (Shailene Woodley) and boyfriend Four (Theo James) because she is divergent — a person who cannot be pigeonholed into just one designation.

"He's not a villain at all in any way, shape or form," he says. "He's tasked with protecting the society and I really feel that he believes in expunging the divergents and the rebel factions. He's not doing it in a malicious way. He's not getting pleasure from other people's pain. He looks at it as a necessary evil."

No spoilers for Phifer

Phifer hasn't read the Veronica Roth books that make up the source material for the films. "For me it seemed like more fun to do the series and then read the books and compare." So he's not sure what's going to happen with his character, but he hopes Max comes back for next year's instalment, Allegiant: Part 1.

- "I don't know what's happening next, so I'm on the journey with the audience," he says. "I would love to see some of who he is come full circle."

Insurgent's rebellious women break the action movie mould

On the surface, Insurgent, with its dystopian setting and teenage heroine, might just seem like another by-the-numbers young adult tale. Look a little closer and it's clear that this second instalment isn't merely capitalizing on a popular genre, but, with its half dozen female leads and supporting characters, actually represents a subtle subversion of what audiences have been taught action films should be.

Kate Winslet
LIONSGATE

When women lead up action-driven films and franchises, it's usually one exceptional gal against the world. Here, they're all over the place, serving as leaders, radicals and rebels, each wildly diverse, complicated, charismatic and flawed in their own unique way. Insurgent, out Friday, picks up shortly after the events of the first film, and finds Tris (Shailene Woodley) exposed as a state-wanted "divergent," or someone who doesn't fit into the five designated factions, and on the run from Jeanine (Kate Winslet), the controlling, ruthless leader whose goal is to extradite Tris's kind from the society.

On a path to self-actualization, Tris encounters a number of adults hoping to mould her in their image, including franchise newcomers Johanna (Octavia Spencer), the stoic Amity leader with the mysterious scar on her face, and Evelyn (Naomi Watts), a factionless revolutionary with cryptic motives who also happens to be the estranged mother of Tris's boyfriend Four (Theo James).

Credit for populating the world with strong female characters goes to author Veronica Roth, who saw Insurgent as a chance to really flesh out the environment around Tris.

"It was very intentional for me that most of the leaders in Tris's world would be women, and not necessarily the good guys all the time," said Roth on a recent afternoon in Los Angeles.

"I think it's equally important to have female villains. When people notice that there's not a lot of representation in a particular area they try to make those characters holy symbols that are pure and good. That does a disservice to women."

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Gossip

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METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Kevin Hart is no bat man

Fun fact: Austin, Texas is home to the largest urban bat colony in North America, with up to 1.5 million mostly female and pregnant bats making a home under the Congress Avenue bridge around this time each year, taking flight each day at dusk and creating quite the spectacle. That bridge is uncomfortably close to the Four Seasons for Kevin Hart, though, who is in town to premiere Get Hard at SXSW.

"Do you know about the bats?" co-star Will Ferrell asks him innocently, and Hart's face immediately falls.

"You just lost me, buddy," he says. "Bats? Let's go ahead and fire up the god damn plane. Listen, I don't f-- around, man. I'm out. If it's some bats, I don't play that. We were in Australia, and I was like, 'Man, these birds look weird, don't they? What's with these stupid-ass birds out here in Australia?' And the girl was like, 'Oh, those are bats.' I said, 'I'll see you all later, I've got a car. I'm going back home.' F–ing bats, I don't like that."

Ferrell explains that "Kevin hates nature. What room are you in? Leave your windows open, you'll get some nice friendly visitors."

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart. ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

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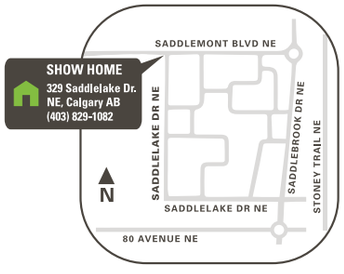

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Liza Minnelli goes into rehab

Liza Minnelli

It turns out TMZ's reports that stage and screen legend Liza Minnelli had recently checked herself into rehab are true. "Liza Minnelli has valiantly battled substance abuse over the years and whenever she has needed to seek treatment she has done so," her rep tells E News. "She is currently making excellent progress at an undisclosed facility." The 69-year-old Oscar-winner is reportedly seeking treatment for alcohol abuse. "My whole life, this disease has been rampant," Minnelli told the Guardian in 2008. "I inherited it, and it's been horrendous, but I have always asked for help." Her mother, Judy Garland, battled substance abuse and died from an accidental overdose in 1969.

It's 'so nice not to be on social media,' Azalea may stay away

Missing Iggy Azalea on social media? You may have to get used to it.

The rapper, who has spent the last week off of Twitter and Instagram, said she may not return to the popular networks.

"Yeah, so nice not to be on social media so I'm kind of going to continue that until, maybe forever," she said in an interview with The Associated Press early Thursday.

Azalea's management has been posting on her social media accounts since she announced she was taking a break. In her last Instagram post, she wrote about paparazzo invading her privacy by taking photos of her outside her home.

"I think it's disgusting," Azalea said backstage at the Samsung Milk Music Lounge during South by Southwest in Austin, Texas, where she was the headline act. "I don't think it's nice to stick your camera through somebody's fence and hedge and take a picture of them in their yard and think that's OK at all."

Though the Fancy performer is off social media, she's keeping busy with new music and her upcoming tour, which was pushed back to the fall instead of the spring due to "production delays." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pretty Girls making music

Though the Fancy performer is off social media, she's keeping busy with new music and her upcoming tour, which was pushed back to the fall instead of the spring due to "production delays."

- Azalea said her first single will be the Britney Spears-assisted Pretty Girls.

Iggy Azalea GETTY IMAGES

Lifestyle site Jules in Hough's crown

Julianne Hough

Apparently Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop has been serving as less a cautionary tale and more an inspiration for other celebrities — we see you, Blake Lively — looking to diversify their portfolios, because now yet another famous blonde is going online to tell you how to live.

Former Dancing with the Stars star Julianne Hough just launched a lifestyle site dubbed Jules to pass on her wisdom about healthy eating and home decor.

Hough hopes to connect with her fans and "talk about the things I'm most passionate about, like staying healthy, recipes, style, home décor and friendship.

"I wanted to design a space where I could connect with fans and friends," Hough writes.

"This is a place where we can share recipes, workout tips, talk about style, beauty and home decor.

"I'm especially excited to talk to you guys about things that matter most, like ways we can all be rock stars in our communities and tips to become the best versions of ourselves."

And I bet you didn't even know you weren't being your best self yet.

Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

A very Canadian way to welcome spring, eh

Appetizer. Celebrate the new season with this Sesame and Maple Appetizer Bread

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

Want to take maple syrup in a savoury direction? Do it with this recipe that honours Canada's most beloved export.

This recipe serves eight. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Ingredients

Dough
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) warm water
- 1/2 tsp (1 1/2 ml) maple syrup
- 1 1/4 cups (175 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp instant dry yeast
- 1 tsp salt

Topping
- 1/4 cup (35 g) toasted sesame seeds
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) olive oil
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) maple syrup
- Fleur de sel

Dough

1. In a bowl, combine the water and maple syrup. Set aside.

2. In bowl with a wooden spoon, combine flour, yeast and salt. Add the water mixture and combine into a soft ball. Knead the dough for about 3 minutes on a floured surface.

3. Place dough in clean and lightly oiled bowl. Coat dough with the oil. Cover bowl with damp cloth and leave in a warm and moist place for about 1 hour or until the dough has doubled in volume.

Topping

1. On a work surface sprinkled with sesame seeds, roll half of the dough at a time into an 8-inch (20 cm) disc, taking care to coat with sesame seeds. Sprinkle pepper on each side of the dough and press lightly to make it adhere.

2. In a non-stick skillet over medium heat, brown 1 bread at a time in half the oil for about 2 minutes on each side. Add 1 tbsp of maple syrup and caramelize one side of the bread. Flip the bread on a cutting board. Cut in half and then cut into 1/2-inch (1.5 cm) strips. Sprinkle with salt. Clean the pan before cooking the second bread. Serve with a glass of cider or beer. **FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.**

Liquid Assets

Spring in a bottle

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

My calendar lies.

It says that today is the first day of spring. Out my window here in Nova Scotia, it's beginning to look a lot more like Christmas.

Even with snow on the ground, I'm embracing the change of seasons by diving into a glass of something white, ripe and fruity.

Though fruitier reds have hogged the spotlight of late, there's nothing like a bright, floral white when it comes to expressing the liquid personality of spring.

Argentina's Torrontés grape is a highly aromatic berry that smells so good you'd almost be tempted to dab a little behind each ear.

Sometimes all that perfume can be a bit much, so it's often blended with other grapes to soften the assault on your nasal passages.

While Fuzion's 2013 Alta Torrontés Pinot Grigio ($9.95 - $12.99) still smells great, the addition of a touch of fresh, citrusy Pinot Grigio brings out the fleshy pear and stone fruit of the Torrontés.

A good match with spicy Asian cuisine, grilled chicken and fresh shellfish.

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Notice of Hearing For Permanent Guardianship Order To
Alfredo Julian

Take notice that on the **31st day of March 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #821, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a Judicial Dispute Resolution will take place.

Take notice that on the **2nd day of April 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1206, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a Pre-Trial Conference will take place.

Take notice that on the **11th and 12th days of May 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1206, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a Trial will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order** of your children born on **October 7, 2009** and **May 25, 2011**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Diane Charlebois; Jackie Ellice; Daniella Eggink
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

Notice of Hearing For Temporary Guardianship Order To
Amy Hillman

Take notice that on the **27th day of March 2015 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order; Temporary Guardianship Order** of your child born on **August 2, 2003**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

Notice of Hearing For Permanent Guardianship Order To
Jason Thomson

Take notice that on the **24th day of March 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1208, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta,** an Initial Custody Hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order; Permanent Guardianship Order** of your child born on **July 31, 2010**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

Bra shopping dos and don'ts everyone should know

Tips. Bra shopping can be challenging at the best of times and key pointers can help you find the right fit

Lingerie mogul Michelle Lam says the band of a bra should always sit horizontally all the way around the torso. ISTOCK

It's no secret that most women are wearing the wrong bra size.

A now-famous study by lingerie manufacturer Wacoal found that a whopping 80 per cent of ladies aren't getting the support they need from their undergarments.

So what's a gal to do?

Bra expert Jené Luciani, who also penned The Bra Book, says it's all about being an educated consumer.

"Many women head into a store, rely on the salesperson completely, don't have any clue what they did to come to their conclusion, and then walk out with a bunch of bras that they feel totally uncomfortable and unhappy with," Luciani tells Metro.

"Another common mistake is not having any information, not wanting to get fitted, and just grabbing things off the rack in the size you've worn for the last 10 years, which is a recipe for unhappiness."

Luciani drives home the fact that women don't stay the same bra size their whole life.

Pregnancies, weight gain or weight loss, and menopause are among the many factors that contribute to fluctuating breast size. This is why her rule of thumb is to get fitted every six months to a year.

"There are also little clues to look out for when you're bra shopping," Luciani adds.

"For instance, the bridge, which is the piece between the cups, is supposed to fit flush against your rib cage. So your breasts are supposed to be two separate breasts encased in each cup with that middle piece sitting flat against your rib cage."

In other words, if there's a gap between your skin and the fabric, you probably need to go up a cup size or two.

Bra care

How often do you wash your bras? According to Jené Luciani, they really should get thrown in the hamper after each use.

- "The dirt and oils in our skin really break down the elasticity of the fabric," says Luciani, who adds that handwashing them is ideal.
- If washing your bras by hand doesn't fit into your lifestyle, she recommends tossing them in a little mesh garment bag before putting them in the washing machine. Since parts of the bra can snag in the machine, this is the best way to protect them.

Looking for other killer tips for finding the best-fitting bra?

Lingerie mogul Michelle Lam, founder of True&Co., weighs in with her favourite advice:

Check the bands. "Look at whether the band sits horizontally all the way around the torso when the shoulder straps are comfortably taut. It shouldn't ride up the back."

Look at how your breasts sit in the cups. "There should be no space between the breast and the cup, and no extra overflow at the cleavage line or near the armpits."

Remember that your body changes over time, so be willing to try new sizes and styles. "Ultimately, you shouldn't feel your bra on your body. Pinched areas and loose straps are an indication of an ill-fitting bra. It should be comfortably supportive and taut on every surface."

MARIANNE HAYES/METRO US

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NHL

Price helps Habs shut down Canes

Carey Price made 31 saves for his league-leading and career-best 39th win of the season as the Montreal Canadiens beat the visiting Carolina Hurricanes 4-0 on Thursday.

Price also earned his eighth shutout of the campaign.

Dale Weise, Brendan Gallagher, David Desharnais and Max Pacioretty scored for the Canadiens (45-20-7). THE CANADIAN PRESS

Curling

Jones gets short layoff before Page playoff

Canada closed out round-robin play at the world women's curling championship on Thursday with an 8-5 win over hosts Japan in a tune-up for the Page playoff 1-2 game.

Winnipeg skip Jennifer Jones and teammates Kaitlyn Lawes, Dawn McEwen and Jill Officer finished with a 9-2 record, good for second place behind Switzerland's Alina Patz (10-1). Jones and Patz will get a day off Friday before meeting in Saturday's playoff with a berth in the gold-medal game on the line.

"The way the draw was set up and because we have to stay at the rink all day, it makes for really long days, so it's nice to have a break," said Jones. "We'll just hang out in Japan — we love it here. And I love where the team is at right now. I can't think of a better group of girls to play with."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flames say no to junk mail, tear up the Flyers

Flyers goalie Steve Mason covers the puck before Flames forward Jiri Hudler has a chance to pounce during Thursday night's game at the Saddledome. Dennis Wideman and T.J. Brodie scored in the second, then Sean Monahan and Johnny Gaudreau added power-play markers in the third as the Flames ran away with a 4-1 win.

Calgary moved into third place in the Pacific Division with the win. Go to metronews.ca for more on the game.

JEFF MCINTOSH/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jets juke Blues' best shot to claim victory

NHL. Captain Ladd puts final touches on win as Winnipeg holds tight to wild-card spot

On Thursday

Jets	Blues
2	1

Andrew Ladd scored the decisive goal in the shootout to give the Winnipeg Jets a 2-1 win over the St. Louis Blues on Thursday.

Drew Stafford picked up the only goal in regulation time for the Jets (36-23-12) while David Backes scored the lone goal for the Blues.

Winnipeg's Ondrej Pavelec made 32 saves for his 16th win of the season as Brian Elliott stopped 33 shots for St. Louis (45-20-6).

The Jets temporarily moved three points up on the Calgary Flames, who were also in action Thursday, for the second and final wild card spot in the Western Conference. The Flames brought that deficit back down to one point and moved into third place in the Pacific Division with a 4-1 win over the Flyers.

The Jets and Blues sides played to a scoreless first, but the period wasn't without its chances.

Pavelec and his counterpart Elliott had to be on their toes as the pace picked up following just three combined shots after eight minutes of play.

Winnipeg welcomes the Washington Capitals on Saturday night while St. Louis travels to Minnesota for a matchup with the Wild.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jets forward Blake Wheeler avoids a check from Blues defenceman Zbynek Michalek on Thursday in Winnipeg. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
Temporary Guardianship Order To
Mohammed Farah

Take notice that on the **30th day of March 2015 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1208, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, an Initial Custody Hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order; Temporary Guardianship Order** of your children born on **August 28, 2007** and **January 31, 2010**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
Temporary Guardianship Order To
Stephanie Moose

Take notice that on the **30th day of March 2015 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1208, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, an Initial Custody Hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order; Temporary Guardianship Order** of your children born on **August 28, 2007** and **January 31, 2010**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

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Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
Temporary Guardianship Order to
Jamal Jenkens

Take notice that on the **30th day of March 2015 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1208, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, an Initial Custody Hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody Order; Temporary Guardianship Order** of your children born on **August 28, 2007** and **January 31, 2010**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

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Calgary Region, Child and Family Services
Phone: (403) 297-2978

Matthew Wuest

Metro reporter, CapGeek founder, dies of cancer

Matthew Wuest
METRO FILE

Matthew Wuest poured his heart into his work.

The former Metro Halifax sports reporter and CapGeek founder was always the one writing the stories, often shying away from having stories written about him.

Wuest died in the early-morning hours Thursday at Victoria General Hospital in Halifax, wife Melanie Patten by his side, following a two-and-a-half year battle with colon cancer.

While he was never one to have the media spotlight shining his way, Wuest's story is one that deserves to be told.

"He was just a great guy who really loved what he did," Metro Halifax managing editor Philip Croucher said Thursday. "I've never seen anyone do it better."

Wuest was dedicated to doing the best possible job, yet was never satisfied with the end result.

The Stanley, N.B., native was always trying to better himself, whether covering local sports such as the Halifax Mooseheads, Halifax Rainmen and Atlantic University Sport for his full-time job with Metro, or developing the popular hockey resource CapGeek, an online NHL salary cap review.

"There were days I'd wonder how he would get stories and information, he was so connected to the sports world, both nationally and internationally," said Croucher.

Wuest was a humble soul, happy to collect the facts and conduct interviews, and as his recent quiet shutting down of CapGeek shows, apt to stay out of headlines himself.

"He didn't go for the attention that he could have gotten through that site," Croucher said of CapGeek.

"He was able to do that, and still without question, be the best sports reporter in Halifax — that speaks volumes to the talent that he was." KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

Sanchez 'locked' into Jays' starting rotation: Gibbons

Aaron Sanchez signs autographs on Wednesday in Dunedin, Fla. The pitcher looks to be a lock for the starting rotation. KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball. Pitcher makes the most of an unexpected opportunity

If there was any doubt after Marcus Stroman's season-ending knee injury that Aaron Sanchez would be a starter for the Blue Jays this season, manager John Gibbons quashed it Thursday morning.

"I think he's pretty much locked into where he is now," Gibbons said. "That could change, but I would be very surprised by that."

Though groomed as a starter throughout his minor-league career, Sanchez made his big-league debut as a reliever in the second half of last season, posting a stingy 1.09 ERA while showcasing the highest average fastball velocity in the American League. The Jays have always viewed the lanky 22-year-old as a starter long-term, but given the holes at the back end of their bullpen he was being considered for the closer's role strictly out of necessity.

Then Stroman's injury created another hole.

"The whole idea of him coming out of the bullpen was just because that was going to make our team stronger," Gibbons said. "But I think most guys want to see what he can do as a starter."

The manager was succinct when asked what solidified the decision. "Stroman went down, you know? Simple as that."

That leaves four of the Jays' five starting spots spoken for with two weeks remaining until opening day. Veteran swingman Marco Estrada — acquired from the Milwaukee Brewers in the Adam Lind trade — and 21-year-old rookie left-hander Daniel Norris are still competing for the final rotation job.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Vonn wins super-G again

Lindsey Vonn won the World Cup super-G title for the fifth time after winning the last race in the discipline on Thursday at the season-ending finals in Meribel, France.
The day after clinching the downhill title, the 30-year-old American extended her record number of crystal globes in women's alpine skiing to 19, equaling Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark's total.

ALEXIS BOICHARD/AGENCE ZOOM, GETTY IMAGES

McDavid refuses to be sucked into talk of his future home

NHL draft. Consensus No. 1 pick up for grabs to Buffalo, Arizona, Edmonton, Toronto

Connor McDavid celebrates with linemate Nick Betz of the Erie Otters after his goal against the Windsor Spitfires last September in Windsor, Ont.

DENNIS PAJOT/GETTY IMAGES

Connor McDavid's future is being determined every night in the NHL.

Points won and lost will eventually turn to NHL draft lottery percentages, and one lucky team will win the chance to select the 18-year-old phenom. McDavid has seen the simulator that mimics next month's lottery but hasn't run it himself and doesn't wonder too much about where he'll go.

"If you're doing that, then you're going to get kind of caught up in everything," the Erie Otters star said after a recent practice. "You have no control over it, and so why worry about it. There's nothing you can do."

McDavid can only rack up the points and wait. With less than a month left in the regular season, there's an established hierarchy of teams most likely to get the No. 1 pick.

Chief among them are the Buffalo Sabres, last in the league with 47 points. Ravaged by injuries and trades, they're on goalies three and five of the season and using Johan Larsson as the No. 1 centre.

The Sabres strategically timed their rebuild to bottom out this season and take advantage of some of the best talent available at the top of a draft in a decade. If Buffalo finishes last, it has a 20 per cent chance of getting McDavid but a 100 per cent chance of getting either him or Boston University centre Jack Eichel.

The Toronto Maple Leafs didn't set out to be this bad, but if they remain where they're at — fourth from the bottom behind the Sabres, Arizona Coyotes and Edmonton Oilers — they'll have a 9.5 per cent chance of winning the lottery. So-called "tanking" is all the rage among the fan base but not intentional organizationally.

"We've talked to (general manager) Dave Nonis and his staff, and our mandate is to win as many games as we can," assistant coach Steve Spott said on a conference call last week. "They demand we play our best 20 (players) every night."

In spite of that, the Leafs are 2-7-1 in their past 10 games and have pieced together a blue-line to finish the season with Roman Polak (hernia) and Stephane Robidas (shoulder) shut down after surgeries. Beyond this spring, as president Brendan Shanahan put it in a letter to season-ticket holders, building this team back up "will require patience and a long-term view."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Material: aluminum

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The Sun moves into your sign today and a new solar year begins. Just how good that year will be depends on the things you do over the next few days.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If someone blames you for something that was not your fault, let them know you are not happy about it, but don't go and make an enemy of them.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
According to the planets you need to ignore other people's advice and go back to basics. Start by asking yourself how and why you have arrived at your current position.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The Sun moves into the area of your chart that governs your social and professional status today. Over the next few weeks you will get many opportunities to better yourself.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Something you thought of as a problem won't be seen as such any more because you refuse to take it seriously. Your attitude will soften over the next day.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Over the past few weeks the emphasis has been on partnerships of an emotional nature but as of today it will shift to partnerships of a business or financial nature.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The Sun's change of signs today means you are halfway through your solar year: a good point to look back and take stock of how far you have come.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
With the Sun moving into the work and wellbeing area of your chart today you'll need to do more in some areas and less in others. Get the balance right.

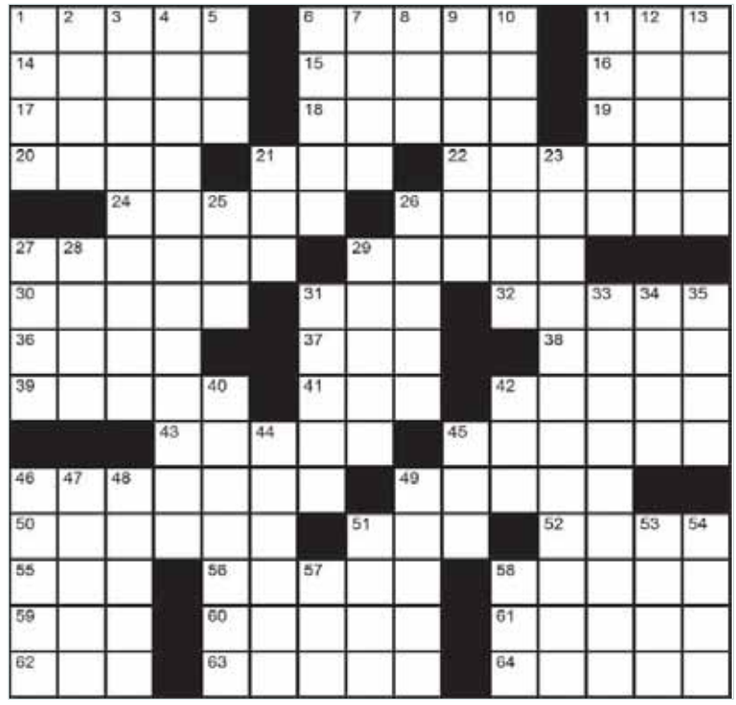
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Refuse to settle for second best. Your confidence will soar over the next few days and you will start to believe that anything is possible. One of the best times of the year is about to begin.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There is no such thing as coincidence and if you feel yourself drawn towards a certain person it is because your fates are connected.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Now that the Sun is moving into one of the more sociable areas of your chart you won't have any problems getting across your point of view.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Get serious about your dreams. Look at the plans you have made in recent weeks and ask yourself if you are aiming too high or too low. Most likely it's the latter. Raise your sights and your game will follow.

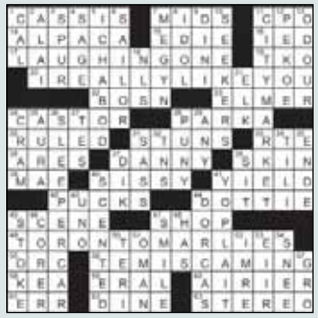
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Spot __ (BC shrimp)
6. Orange variety
11. Tea holder
14. Second-year students, briefly
15. Perry __ (Menswear label)
16. Completely
17. "__ __ by Sea" (1996)
18. Novelist Evelyn
19. Electronics co.
20. Shaker stuff
21. Zoologist's 'foot'
22. Protector-from-harm charm
24. Bubbled tool
26. Edmund Fitzgerald's load: 2 wds. (More at #4-Down)
27. Financial motive
29. _, _ __ _ (Multiple choice options)
30. Altercation: 2 wds.
31. "__ Maria"
32. "Frozen" (2013) Queen's
36. Cuckoos
37. Sea: French
38. "__ __ blame." (My bad!)
39. OKs
41. Cartoonist Mr. Spiegelman
42. Wings hit: letter + wd.
43. Creature
45. Typing: It's to a Q's left: 2 wds.
46. NFLD: Cape __. __ Ecological Reserve
49. Venture
50. Key in again
51. Bulg. neighbour
52. Justin Bieber's "That Should __ __"
55. 'Thrice'-meaning prefix
56. "__ Was a Lady" (1945)
58. Philadelphia athlete
59. __ _ crossroads
60. Mythical maiden
61. West Yorkshire city in England
62. Elle: English
63. Dallas' state denizen
64. Actor Mr. Davis

Down
1. Calif. clock settings
2. Seating near the stage: wd. + letter
3. Ms. Kotero of "Purple Rain" (1984)
4. "The searchers all say they'd have made __ __ if..." - Gordon Lightfoot
5. Banking acronym
6. "Foolish Games" singer
7. Unluckily
8. Bug
9. The Marriage of __, by Mozart, 1786
10. Canadian actor Shawn
11. Gambling destination, with Monte
12. Gastric trouble
13. Dish
21. Kibbles eater
23. Cirque of the __ (Northwest Territories mountaineering challenge)
25. Mr. Diesel
26. French composer Jacques
27. Talk to God
28. Germanic letter
29. Deflect
31. Stockpile
33. Brigitte Bardot makeup look: 2 wds.
34. Dip _ __ in (Test the lake's coldness)
35. __ Music Canada
40. __ Mounds (Approx. 2000-year-old burial site near Peterborough, Ontario)
42. Honking source
44. "__-__, Captain!"
45. Mr. Arnold
46. Miss: Spanish [abbr. plural]
47. Zipper bits
48. __. __ (Alberta peak named after Arctic explorer John)
49. Alpine dry wind
51. Kelly of daytime
53. __-spa
54. Celtic language
57. Rapper/actor known by these three letters
58. Andy Capp's wife

Yesterday's Crossword

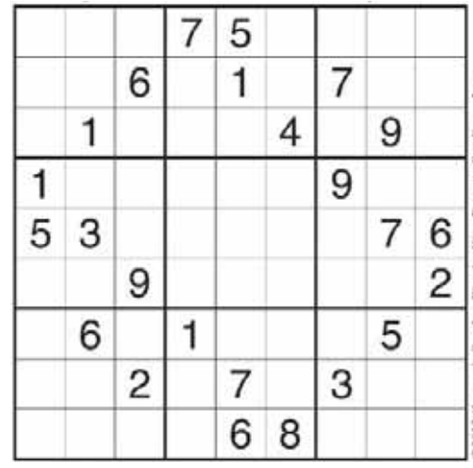


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	1	5	7	2	3	6	9
5	7	3	4	9	6	8	1	2
2	6	9	1	8	3	4	7	5
9	4	8	3	6	5	1	2	7
6	5	7	2	1	8	9	3	4
1	3	2	9	4	7	5	8	6
3	1	5	6	2	9	7	4	8
8	2	4	7	5	1	6	9	3
7	9	6	8	3	4	2	5	1

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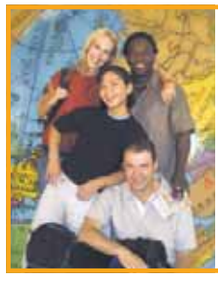
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